

THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE

DECEMBER 21, 2012



Wasted Wishes

**Hoping That Texas Marijuana Laws Will Go the Washington State Way?
It's Bound to Happen – If the World Doesn't End First.**

BY JORDAN SMITH

22

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Samantha is an aspiring rapper from Miami. This December, she accompanied us on a trip to New York City, where we took this photo of her in front of a few Christmas trees wearing the Bra Bodysuit, Leather Mini Skirt and keeping warm in our Unisex Long Wool Coat.

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Postmarks

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Dear Editor,

Though redistricting efforts have just begun, it appears as if the internecine sniping has begun in earnest ["10-1: If It Ain't Baroque, Let's Fix It," News, Dec. 14]. I recently heard a suggestion that seems to me to have great merit. Let's celebrate Austin's diversity and progressivism by not using any vertical lines to draw the new City Council districts. I-35 is often seen as an artificial dividing line for the city, so let's transcend that barrier and ignore it in the redistricting process. Rather than copying the polarized national model, let's come together as the proud city that we are and use only horizontal lines to draw the districts. I'm certain that there are powerful political and legal forces that would oppose such a plan, but let's overcome them.

Sincerely,
Wally Pliszka

Reader COMMENTS

On environment-related legislation:

"If legislators want to keep their seats when re-election comes back around, they better understand how much the public wants environmental change in Texas. Alternative energy sources, climate change plans, water conservation initiatives,

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and statewide waste reduction/increased recycling are just the beginning."

— Melissa Rothrock

"Environment: Don't Hold Your Breath," News, Dec. 14
austinchronicle.com/comments

AN INAPPROPRIATE APP

On the *Chronicle's* happy hour app:

Dear Editor,

It seems to me that promoting happy hour locations is helping people who have a drinking problem to find cheap sources of a damaging (both physically and financially) substance. Given the consequences of drunken driving and damaging your health, I feel that this particular app is not appropriate for your publication, which seems to be addressing the concerns and problems of our fair city.

Thank you,
Cindy Kvien

WHERE'S THE BIKE LANE?

Dear Editor,

I would like to respond to George Bronner's letter ["Bicycle Riders Should Have Better

continued on p.10

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



UPDATED DAILY austinchronicle.com/postmarks

"PAGE TWO"
IS TAKING A BREAK.

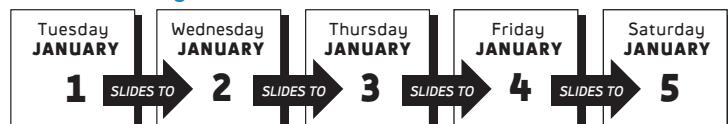


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Manners,” Postmarks, Dec. 7] from last week’s paper: I know exactly how you felt! I have been in that situation myself a number of times, and I am sure we were thinking the same thing: Where is the goddamned bike lane! When the city rebuilt Riverside through Butler Park, they blew a golden opportunity to reduce friction between drivers and cyclists, and sharing that stretch of road sucks. I find sharing the road in general to be stressful and frustrating – that’s why I always try to drive on roads with bike lanes; they are so much better. All you road users, keep it cool out there!

Pete Wall

TERRIFIC COVER!

Dear Editor,

The cover on last week’s issue is terrific [“One for the Books”]! I am overjoyed to see that indie publishers are fighting in the war against the latest in isolation gadgets [“The Writing’s Not on the Wall Yet,” the Arts, Dec. 14]!

Mike Soden

MORE TEXANS NEED TO HOME SCHOOL

Dear Editor,

More Texans need to home school their kids. Public education has become obsolete, and we can thank Gov. Perry, Texas legislators, and the School Board of Education, because they have killed it. Voters deserve part of the “thanks” because they have permitted it. Homeowners deserve “thanks” because they have paid the most for it. Our children suffer because of it.

Peter Stern



MORE COVERAGE ON KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

Dear Editor,

I hope that the *Chronicle* will provide more coverage in the future of the legal issues and protests surrounding the construction of the portion of the Keystone XL pipeline within the state of Texas. Not only is the resistance to this pipeline relevant to activism against climate change on a national scale, but it also touches on local issues that are important to many Texans. Recent legal cases, such as the restraining order by Michael Bishop, which was recently approved and then lifted, have brought up questions about property rights,

particularly who should have the ability to claim eminent domain as a common carrier. In addition, the harsh responses received by members of Tar Sands Blockade from both local law enforcement and private security hired by TransCanada, in addition to the exorbitant sums at which bail has been set for protesters who have been arrested and the conditions these protesters faced in local jails, raise some grave concerns about treatment of nonviolent protesters in general. Increased coverage on this topic would be of interest to many and contribute to ongoing discussion of these important issues.

Sincerely,
Juliana Kunz

Oops!

In the first part of our legislative preview, (“Will Texas Do Better?,” News, Dec. 7), covering the landscape for women’s health issues under the dome in 2013, we incorrectly referred to Sen. Dan Patrick’s SB 97 as requiring a doctor to administer an abortion-inducing drug in person, contrary to FDA guidelines. In fact, FDA guidelines restrict access of the abortion-inducing drug mifepristone to doctors, though in some states, including in Texas, medical professionals other than doctors – including nurse practitioners – are allowed to administer the drug.

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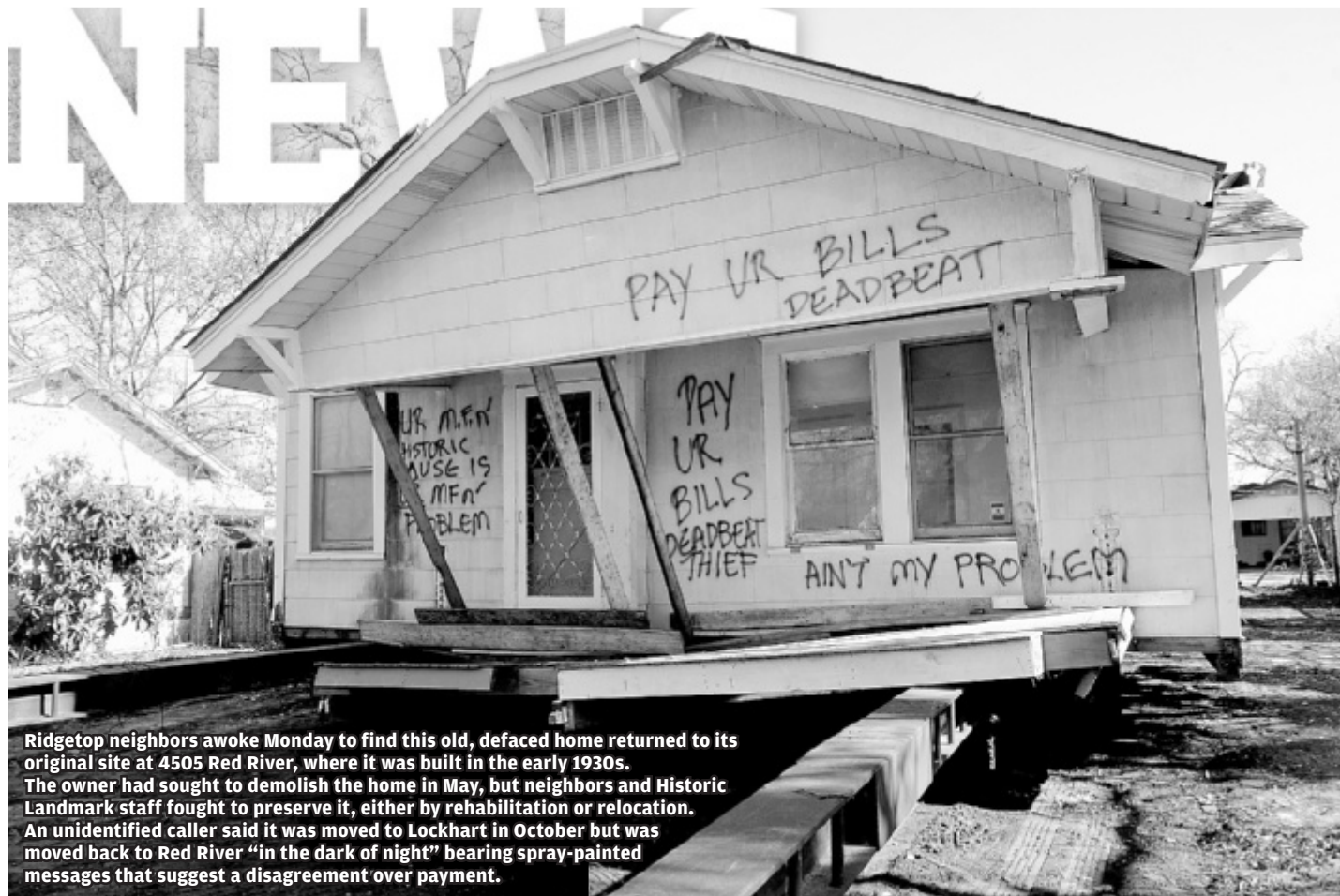
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Ridgetop neighbors awoke Monday to find this old, defaced home returned to its original site at 4505 Red River, where it was built in the early 1930s. The owner had sought to demolish the home in May, but neighbors and Historic Landmark staff fought to preserve it, either by rehabilitation or relocation. An unidentified caller said it was moved to Lockhart in October but was moved back to Red River "in the dark of night" bearing spray-painted messages that suggest a disagreement over payment.

JOHN ANDERSON

Guns 'R' Us

Change our gun laws, change ourselves

I hadn't intended to write yet another somber reflection on America's gun madness in the wake of the Connecticut school massacre, figuring most of what needs to be said was already reverberating in the air. Then my elected Texas representatives begin pontificating on the subject, and it occurred to me if these guys are opening their big mouths, the rest of us ought to try to get a word in edgewise.

There's a reflexive theme among our state public officials: The answer to our epidemic levels of gun murders is – you guessed it – more guns. First there was U.S. Rep. Louie Gohmert, R-Tyler, a couple of days after the shootings, telling Fox-TV, "I wish to God [the principal] had had an M4 in her office locked up so when she heard gunfire, she pulls it out ... and takes his head off before he can kill those precious kids." That's a useful recommendation for elementary school educators – when you're not buying school supplies on your own dime, chaperoning field trips, or hosting

bake sales, get combat training with military assault weapons.

Gohmert spewed the same nonsense after the Colorado movie theatre shooting, summoning an imaginary counterattack of armed patrons, in the dark, engaging in crossfire. In the past, Gohmert's distinguished himself by sponsoring anti-Obama "birther" legislation and claiming that pregnant Middle Eastern women are traveling to the U.S. on tourist visas to deliver "terror babies" to return as U.S. citizens decades later to engage in terrorist acts. More recently, he was the sole House vote against removing the pejorative word "lunatic" from the U.S. legal code – as even Gohmert's GOP colleagues must have realized, the jokes just write themselves.

It didn't take long for Land Commissioner (and Lite Guv candidate) Jerry Patterson to weigh in; Patterson owes much of his career to his sponsorship of the Texas concealed carry law. Patterson mused on the "target-rich environments" offered by schools and

campuses (where he believes concealed carry should also prevail) – although to his credit, he doesn't think it's a great idea to arm all the teachers in public schools. A designated weapons-trained administrator or security guard should do the trick, Patterson said – yet another step forward for public education in Texas.

Lege to the Rescue

Gov. Rick "Death to Coyotes" Perry soon joined the chorus, telling a North Texas Tea Party group, "In the state of Texas, if you go through the process, have been trained, and you are a handgun-licensed individual, you should be able to carry a gun anywhere in the state," although he added that school districts should be able to exercise "local options" on the matter. It's refreshing to know our state leadership has so much to offer in addressing the problems of public education – although it never includes equitable fund-

continued on p.14

Headlines

- The next regular **City Council** meeting is Jan. 17, meaning it's time to enjoy the **Trail of Lights** and **Austin New Year** before returning to vexed questions like strained budgets, affordable housing, and even (could it be?) the Year of Mass Transit. Last week's farewell featured a parting gift to the **Circuit of the Americas** (see "Bad for Texas Is Good for Austin," p.16).
- Twenty-year-old **Adam Lanza** went on a shooting rampage Dec. 14, murdering his mother at home before heading to **Sandy Hook Elementary** in Newtown, Conn., where he slaughtered 25 people, including 20 children, before turning his gun on himself. The events prompted a renewed call by Democratic lawmakers to put **gun regulation** back on the table – including renewing an assault weapon ban.
- **Thai Noodle House** made national headlines this week after owner **Eddie Nimibutr** posted comments to his Facebook account that began: "I'm failing to give a damn about the CT shooting. I don't care if a bunch of white kids got killed." The restaurant has only commented to say Nimibutr wasn't the owner and is no longer at the establishment. He apologized Tuesday "for the things I have said and the pain I created."
- **Fireworks** go on sale today, Thursday, Dec. 20, in Travis County. The county **Fire Marshal's Office** reminds residents that even if they're legal, fireworks can still be extremely dangerous in dry and windy conditions, and it is discouraging their use. Stay sober, far away from dry brush, and on a flat surface.
- The death toll on Austin's streets continues to climb: On Dec. 15, a 19-year-old woman accelerated through an intersection at the 9400 block of the northbound service road for I-35, causing her car to slide into a building on the east side of the road, reports APD. Both the driver and passenger were killed. These are the city's 75th and 76th **traffic deaths** of 2012; at this time last year the city had tallied 51.
- Just nine new **death sentences** were handed out in Texas in 2012, a 76% decline since 2002, according to an annual report from the **Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty**. Still, Texas leads the nation in the number of executions, with 15 this year. In total, 43 people were executed in the U.S. in 2012. For more, see "Texas Still Leads Nation in Executions," Newsdesk blog, Dec. 18.
- Texas' **voter ID** bill may be headed to the **U.S. Supreme Court**. On Dec. 17, the same three-judge panel in D.C. that ruled the law unconstitutional cleared the route for an appeal to the highest court. However, SCOTUS is still reviewing Alabama's voter ID law, which may delay any Texas appeal.
- In breaking "too little, too late" news, Texas electors met on Dec. 17 to cast all of the state's 38 electoral college votes for **Mitt Romney**. In spite of this, after winning both the electoral college and the popular vote, **President Obama** will be inaugurated on Jan. 27, 2013.



QUOTE of the WEEK



"Without some sort of public assistance, these events don't work."

– Richard Suttle, seeking City Council endorsement to extract millions more in state funding for four upcoming events at the Circuit of the Americas

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POINT AUSTIN *continued from p.12*

ing for teachers, or facilities, or materials, or even student population growth.

More guns.

Lest you think I'm exaggerating, consider the legislation already proposed for the upcoming 83rd session. Filed by Canton GOP Rep. Dan Flynn are a couple of bills that would make it easier to earn or reapply for a concealed carry permit – Flynn would cut the onerous 10 hours of safety training to four. Newly elected Dallas Republican Rep. Jason Villalba grabbed some post-Newtown headlines by announcing he would file a “Protection of Texas Children Act,” authorizing teachers to carry concealed weapons and designating from among them a “school marshal” specifically trained and authorized to use “lethal force” on campus.

And inevitably, Texarkana Republican Rep. George Lavender will refile his previously failed “open carry” bill that would convert the half-million Texans already holding concealed carry licenses into public vigilantes – a long-held dream of the gun-crazed, who think of themselves as worthy successors to the supposedly “polite” gun culture of the Old West.

They've seen the movies, where the (white) guys in the white hats always win.

The Country in the Mirror

I certainly hope this latest murderous outrage begins tilting the balance toward rational gun regulation, but there's little reason for optimism, at least in the short term. If the fate of Nancy Lanza doesn't persuade people that stockpiling weaponry in your home is an invitation to disaster, little else will. Banning assault weapons (though it will be met with screams from the loony right) should be obvious. Closely tracking gun sales and requiring background checks should be similarly reflexive, but the chances of either happening – without a massive cultural shift toward civility and sanity in public life – seem terribly remote.

That is to say, the problem is not just guns or gun laws. Though it hasn't seemed so lately, gun massacres are relatively rare; gun murders are instead a daily, ordinary mayhem, comprising roughly two-thirds of the 12,600 or so U.S. homicides in 2011. That pattern reflects the larger taste for depersonalized violence in the whole culture – combat TV, films, video games, law enforcement, and of course the military. We've come to barely notice the impersonal slaughters that continue in our names on the edges of the empire, where other people's children remain forever nameless.

Out of all of this mental mayhem grows the reflexive yearning for imaginary, righteous “self-defense” – pandered to the voters by our public officials, most clumsily expressed by Louie Gohmert's ludicrous fantasy of a school principal bursting from her office, automatic weapon on her hip, mowing down the heavily armed invader before he can do his worst.

Gohmert's indeed a lunatic – but he thinks like, and speaks for, far too many of us. ■

The Irony of Conservation

AUSTIN'S WATER-SAVING HABITS WILL DELAY NEED FOR WTP4

Austin Water Utility Director **Greg Meszaros** dreams of a day when he can address the City Council without the inconvenient truth of **Water Treatment Plant No. 4** creeping into the discussion.

He may have hoped for such a day at Council's last meeting of the year Dec. 13, when he appeared before the dais bearing glad tidings of a successful **water conservation program**, which is turning out results that are beyond staff's expectations. But Council Member **Bill Spelman** briefly dampened the upbeat spirit by pointing out the obvious: The achievements of the conservation program bear out arguments that there was really no urgent demand to build a new water treatment facility, which is in the final stages of construction and \$15 million over budget.

“I just need to point out environmentalists were right and you were wrong,” said Spelman, referring to the emotionally charged series of debates leading up to the 2009 Council vote on the plant. “Because,” he continued after pausing a beat, “you have done such a wonderful job with conservation ... and if you want to say you're happy you're wrong ... this would be a lovely time to say so.”

Spelman's lighthearted jab brought a slight wince to Meszaros' face. The director noted his desire to one day stand in front of Council and discuss water conservation without having to address the elephant in the room. He did allow, however, that he had indeed low-balled the numbers on projected water savings “and we're exceeding the goals more than I expected.”

In fact, so much water is being saved (thanks in large part to the drought-mandated watering restrictions), that the city has managed to delay by seven years its “trigger payment” to the **Lower Colorado River Authority** – a savings of about \$95 million, Meszaros said. A contract agreement inked

with the LCRA in 1999 calls for the city to pay a higher rate once its draw from the Colorado River hits 201,000 acre-feet of water per year for two consecutive years. The city currently is holding steady at about 170,000 acre-feet.

Moreover, Austin is ahead of schedule in its goal to reduce overall consumption to 140 gallons per capita per day by 2020, and is now using about 142 gallons per day, Meszaros said – a 13% drop in the last five years.

AN EMPTY LAKE

Spelman pointed out that the utility's conservation program has been helped along by a “wonderful marketing tool called an **empty Lake Travis**.” Images of an expanded shoreline and bone-dry islands in the lake serve as a reminder to use less water, he said. Lake Travis is one of two water supply reservoirs for the region.

Mayor **Lee Leffingwell** agreed that the lake's reduced water levels do influence water usage, but he couldn't let Spelman's WTP4 remarks go without offering a defense for the utility and the new treatment facility. “Yes, our projections

[for consumption] are lower, and it looks like we're going to go a longer period of time without hitting our trigger ... and we're going to go a little bit longer as far as the actual capacity need for an additional water plant,” he said. “The decision to build a water plant was based on predictions at that time. Now we have a different prediction – who knows what it's going to be in the future, but the point is we do need the water plant – the exact year that we're going to need that capacity is still unknown, but it's better to have it than not have it.” There were other reasons for building the treatment facility, he said, including the fact that a more modern facility will reduce Austin's carbon footprint by about 13% because it will require less power than the two existing plants.

“At the risk of reopening the dialog,” Leffingwell said, drawing a little laughter from the dais, “I felt like I had to say that.”

The back-and-forth over WTP4 sidetracked what was supposed to be one of the high points of the Council briefing: Meszaros was joined at the podium by **Resource Management Commission Chair Leo Dielmann**, who was on hand to endorse the conservation program's progress and report on improved relations between utility staff and the Council-appointed RMC. A year ago, the two sides had all but stopped speaking to one another due to their disagreements over how well, or how poorly, the program was working. RMC members complained to Council about what they believed was a lackluster conservation effort and the utility's apparent reluctance to share information. In response, Council members prodded the utility to start working more collaboratively with the commission. “We came to y'all 18 months ago very critical of the water conservation program and of the water utility,” Dielmann told the Council. “What we didn't realize 18 months ago is that the water utility has made very good progress toward these goals.”

Even **Laura Morrison**, one of WTP4's biggest critics on the Council, praised the progress of both the conservation program and the fence-mending between the two sides over the past year. The fact that the utility and the commission were on the same page in regard to the conservation program is “very powerful,” she said.

But all of this cheerfulness was enough to make water watchdog **Paul Robbins** gag. He said he felt like a “caged rottweiler” during the briefing, which he said was set up on the agenda in a way that did not allow for public comments. The utility, he says, is still under-achieving in many areas – water-saving landscape incentives, irrigation audits, and rebates for rainwater harvesting equipment and water-efficient toilets. He said he outlined these and other shortcomings in an update to his 2011 report, “Read It and Leak,” which he provided to the RMC in November.

“The Council isn't getting the Christmas present they want, which is a working program,” Robbins said. “Maybe they were desperate to find some success in all this, and they feel that it's good to get the [utility and RMC] in the same room.” ■



CIVICS 101



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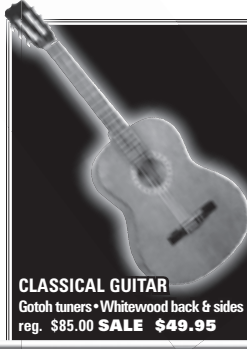
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AISD: IDEA Down, Travis Heights Up

Call it what it was – a gut-check moment. On Monday, Dec. 17, the **Austin Independent School District's board of trustees** voted to cancel the district's contract with **IDEA Public Schools**, right after approving a new community-led charter school at **Travis Heights Elementary**. In doing so, trustees argued that their decisions bring the district closer to its core values: a broad education in the classroom and broader community engagement beyond the schoolyard.

The audience at the meeting was split between parents, teachers, and students who wanted IDEA to stay at **Allan Elementary**, and residents of East Austin and Travis Heights unified in their belief that AISD had a double chance to restore their trust – by removing IDEA from the Allan campus and approving the Travis Heights proposal. The two are, at their cores, very different entities: If the district wants to place an external charter operator on a campus, it merely takes a board vote to impose it, which is what happened at Allan with IDEA. However, if a campus and community want to create their own in-district charter, they must gather the support of more than 80% of teachers, administrators, and primary caregivers for every student – a percentage Travis Heights exceeded. Ultimately, the board unanimously approved restructuring Travis Heights starting next fall, but it split 5-4 to remove IDEA at the end of the current school year.

The IDEA vote represents a new political reality. Three trustees – board Vice President **Gina Hinojosa** (At-Large Place 8), **Jayme Mathias** (District 2), and **Ann Teich** (District 3) – were elected on Nov. 6 with a clear mandate that community involvement must be cardinal. With the backing of existing trustees **Tamala Barksdale** (At-Large Place 9) and **Robert Schneider** (District 7), both of whom voted against the original IDEA contract in 2011, they had the five votes to terminate the deal. Their reasoning was simple: Since not even one in five IDEA Allan students comes from the **Eastside Memorial Vertical Team**, IDEA simply does not serve



Members of the crowd celebrate as the vote to approve a charter at Travis Heights Elementary passed.

that community. Hinojosa told her fellow trustees that, on the same night that the board voted to extend fine arts and dual language provision on all campuses, she simply did not see how the narrow test prep culture of IDEA could fit into AISD, and delaying the final decision a year would only cause more neighborhood division. She said, “At some point, so much damage is done that it’s time for a divorce.”

In an earlier meeting, Mathias had originally proposed a compromise, whereby IDEA’s scheduled 2013 expansion to **Eastside Memorial High** would be put on hold for a year while trustees reviewed their options. Teich called this an “olive branch,” but on Monday night, even Mathias voted against it, arguing that it left IDEA parents in limbo. Ultimately, only four trustees – President **Vince Torres** (District 4), **Cheryl Bradley** (District 1), **Lori Moya** (District 6), and newly elected **Amber Elenz** (District 5) – voted for compromise, and those same

four finally voted against canceling the deal. However, the decision was made with little of the acrimony that marked prior debates. Even Bradley, one of IDEA’s strongest advocates, said she backed the compromise as a way to create a clear vision of what Allan should look like in a year, and where the current IDEA Allan students will go. Similarly, Moya simply said, “I’m having difficulty wrapping my heart around taking a program away from kids who are excelling in a particular environment.” Some audience members gasped at this, asking loudly where that compassion was a year ago when Moya voted to close Allan.

So, as IDEA winds down, the Travis Heights community begins the long process of taking over their South-Central Austin school. The staff and students will remain the same, but the campus will have a new board, plus autonomy over its budget, staffing, and curriculum. The charter is a collaboration between the school,

“At some point, so much damage is done that it’s time for a divorce.”
– Gina Hinojosa

Austin Interfaith, and **Education Austin**, which secured the project’s original planning grant. EA President **Ken Zarifis** suggested the board vote could mark a turning point in relations between the district, the union, and the broader AISD family. He said, “I’m hoping that this shows the way for the district to genuinely partner with the community: To talk to people, not at people, [and] to listen to what they need in plans moving forward.”

Several trustees have suggested that campuses could develop Travis Heights-style autonomy without going through the strains of becoming an in-district charter. Moya has proposed that the district re-evaluate its policy, while Schneider suggested that the current state rules already give campus advisory councils more independence than they generally currently use. The biggest project could well be Eastside Memorial, where community-developed proposals are already being discussed. However, as Schneider noted, even if the board creates new rules to empower campuses, the biggest challenge will be getting communities to step up.

And what of IDEA? The morning after the board vote, CEO **Tom Torkelson** and IDEA Austin Executive Director **Larkin Tackett** announced that the Valley-based charter group will open a new independent Austin campus in the fall, and that they plan to take all 540 current students with them. Torkelson, who has become a lightning rod with his controversial comments about the AISD board and Austin citizenry, said he expected to announce the campus location in early 2013. However, he declined to comment on whether IDEA would stay in East Austin.
– Richard Whittaker

Council: Good for Austin Is Bad for Texas

Last week’s final **City Council** meeting of the year, Dec. 13, was officially anticlimactic, with plenty of predictable postponements to January and February. But one last-minute rush matter didn’t get postponed, and it wasn’t the fee waivers for the **2013 HOPE Market** at Plaza Saltillo (that passed on consent). It was the resolution authorizing the **Circuit Events Local Organizing Committee**, aka CELOC, to apply to the state of Texas for funding from the state’s **Major Events Trust Fund** for four more 2013 racing events (MotoGP, V8 Supercars, American Le Mans Series, and World Endurance Championship) at the **Circuit of the Americas** track in what is now officially annexed as far Southeast Austin. The new applications follow on the heels of Comptroller **Susan Combs** release of state funds (roughly \$29 million) for November’s **Formula One** event, and the resolution means city staff will negotiate with CELOC an agreement along the lines of the

earlier one signed for F1 – under which the state reimburses the promoters for expenses associated with hosting the event (estimated for these events in the \$2-3 million range).

Although the resolution and the METF rules stipulate that the money is reimbursed from the state’s portion of the increased event sales tax receipts, opponents on and off the dais described the arrangement as a shell game that overestimates the event income and thereby threatens city revenues. That was the line of argument taken up by Council Member **Laura Morrison**, who questioned city staff and attorneys closely on whether any state reimbursement would diminish city sales tax revenues; no, she was told, unless Council chose to do something to alter the current arrangement. Morrison had other objections to the deal, as did **Kathie Tovo**, who criticized Council’s indirect acquiescence in the state’s willingness to subsidize for-profit events while simultaneously slashing the

budgets for public education and health care. “If I were representing Wichita Falls,” **Bill Spelman** countered, he would also be objecting to the state’s beneficence, which he described bluntly as a bad deal for the state, but a good one for Austin. “We get all the benefits of these events,” he said, and only Morrison and Tovo disagreed: The resolution passed 5-2.

In other actions, Council also directed City Manager **Marc Ott** to determine whether he could find \$10 million to pursue “near-term opportunities” for new **affordable housing projects**, despite (or because of) the recent defeat of Prop. 15, the affordable housing bond, by local voters. After some questioning by **Chris Riley** over environmental efficiency, Council voted to authorize purchase of 97 **new police vehicles** (\$2.8 million). And in an attempt to combine sustainability and affordability, they voted to make future **Austin Energy rebates** for multifamily energy efficiency projects conditional on not raising rents – a condition, suggested Mayor **Lee Leffingwell**, that might undermine the program altogether.

See you in January.

– Michael King

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Three Progressives Eye Biscoe's Seat

Former State Sen. **Gonzalo Barrientos** will be widely remembered for at least two political spectacles: 1) the live-from-an-undisclosed-location national news shot he featured in when he and a group of other Democratic legislators fled Texas rather than populate chambers so that the Republican party could gerrymander things all to hell in 2003, and 2) his participation in a citizen-initiated – and ultimately successful – effort to bring 10 geographic City Council districts to the city of Austin in 2014.

Turns out that both of those events may now qualify as preludes to bigger things. The 2003 redistricting process, of course, took what little potency was left in the Texas Democratic Party and rendered it completely sterile; the 10-1 effort now looks to be something of a reemergence for Barrientos. Having earned emeritus status after he ceded his Senate seat to **Kirk Watson** in 2006, Barrientos has remained active behind the scenes. In 2011, he ended up as the chair of the city's **Charter Revision Committee**. That gig set him up for his next role as a key supporter of the 10-1 Council district proposal. Now, it seems he may run to replace the retiring **Sam Biscoe** as **Travis County Judge**.

When asked by the *Chronicle* last week if he could confirm that he is considering a run for the post, Barrientos said simply, "It is confirmed." He added that he was recruited by an unnamed group of concerned citizens. "A number things have happened in Austin and in Travis County over the past few years that people have not been satisfied with," Barrientos explained.

It's something of an odd comeback. Though the county judge does wield a fair amount of power, that power is also limited by the nature of the post: County government is severely restricted by state law on what it can and can't do.

Barrientos was once the **Texas Senate president pro tem**. In addition to his career in that chamber, he was a longtime member of the state House of Representatives, serving on major committees – Finance, Natural Resources, Transportation, and Homeland Security in 2005 alone – and making enough of a positive impression that this paper offered a tribute to his career when he stepped down. "The big boys in the owners' box have plenty of representation, direct and indirect. Barring some egalitarian Texas miracle, it's reassuring to know that the little



PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON

Three strong candidates are lining up for the Travis County Judge seat: (l-r) **Gonzalo Barrientos**, **Sarah Eckhardt**, **Andy Brown**.

guys have an occasional voice in the temples of power," the *Chronicle's* Michael King wrote of the then-retiring senator in 2005.

If elected, Barrientos would inherit an organization that is overburdened with independent-minded elected officials, has a notoriously poor reputation for efficiency, just went through a traumatic change in the auditor position – something that could bring even more splits in an already fractious setup – and is, in true county fashion, taking the long way around to a plan for the construction of a new civil and family courthouse, a major new piece of infrastructure that could cost hundreds of millions of dollars, if the court ever decides to build it.

Not that all of this has deterred others from wanting the seat: Last week, current Precinct 2 County Commissioner **Sarah Eckhardt** confirmed that she is also thinking about a run. Travis County Democratic Party chair **Andy Brown** is also interested in the race – and has been for some time, sources say. That's three strong, local, progressive candidates with hefty backing in one little run for county judge. It all makes Barrientos' presence even more strange: A race that pits Barrientos, Eckhardt, and Brown against one another in a primary could well split area progressives – a prospect that neither the candidates nor their backers must relish.

– Mike Kanin

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GOP Politics Only at State Water Board

Diane Hyatt was stunned by the memo. She was being terminated from her job with the **Texas Water Development Board** after six years of employment, allegedly for violating the board's "**ethics policy**" related to engaging in political activity while on state time. Specifically, according to the section of the employee manual cited in the termination memo, "An employee shall not engage in any political activity while on state time or utilize state resources for any political activity."

As it would turn out, Hyatt was being terminated for having forwarded a couple of emails related to **Brigid Shea's** campaign for Austin mayor, emails her supervisors apparently found in the agency's computer system after Hyatt's name and her affiliation with the TWDB were mentioned briefly in an article on **mayoral campaign finances** that ran in the *Austin American-Statesman* on May 9. In the article, Hyatt, who previously worked for the city of Austin doing contract work, was named as Shea's sole campaign contribution bundler. "I know Brigid well and believe in the same things she does: sustainability, progress and planning with a vision," Hyatt told *Statesman* reporter Sarah Coppola. A link to the story was emailed to TWDB Executive Administrator **Melanie Callahan** and to Deputy Executive Administrator **Lisa Glenn** on May 10. On May 11, Glenn wrote the memo terminating Hyatt. "I feel totally betrayed by those for whom I gave long hours & dedication," Hyatt wrote in a statement for the *Chronicle*.

Indeed, in the wake of her termination, Hyatt and her lawyers have discovered that playing politics while on the job at the state's water development agency is an apparent everyday occurrence, at least for Republican employees who received and/or forwarded dozens of emails – everything from newsletters, including the regular newsletter of U.S. Sen. **John Cornyn**, to disturbing and racist emails. One example of the latter makes a joke about the assassination of President **Barack Obama** and first lady **Michelle Obama**: "Best Little Johnny joke ever," reads the subject line of an email forwarded to at least one TWDB employee. In the body of the email is a joke about Obama attending a class at an elementary school where the teacher was discussing "words and their meanings." The teacher asks if Obama would like to lead the discussion of the word "tragedy." So, "our illustrious president asked the class for an example of 'tragedy,'" reads the email. One kid suggests that a tragedy might be the death of a kid run over by a tractor on a farm; no, that would be an accident, the president responds. A second child suggests

it would be a tragedy if a bus carrying 50 children drove over a cliff; no, that would be a great loss, the president replies. Finally "Little Johnny" raises his hand and says it would be a tragedy if the Obamas were killed as the result of a plane crash caused by "friendly fire." That's right, Obama says, and asks Johnny to explain why it would be a tragedy: "Well," says Johnny, "It has to be a tragedy, because it sure as hell wouldn't be a great loss ... and you can bet your ass it's probably not an accident either," the email concludes.



Diane Hyatt

In other emails, employees were asked to purchase a "**Tea Party Survival Guide**" or to support the **Grassfire Nation** and its bid to have English declared the official language of the United States. Another email suggested that if Obama were re-elected in November, "the U.S. is finished," because he plans to turn the country socialist. "I would've never thought a mormon president would look so good!" TWDB employee **Mark Michon** wrote at the top of that email, one of many political emails he forwarded to friends from his work computer. Another email sent to at least one employee suggests that the state of Texas should take up arms to defend its border with Mexico; in another, Michon forwarded a "Quote for Today": "Give a man a fish and he eats for a day," reads the email. "Give a man a welfare check, a forty ounce malt liquor, a crack

pipe and some Air Jordan's and he votes Democrat for a lifetime."

To date, none of the employees who sent or received any of the emails promoting racist, Tea Party, or even more mainstream GOP causes has been terminated or even disciplined for behavior that clearly violates agency policy, notes Hyatt's lawyer, **Derek Howard**. Indeed, in a lawsuit filed Tuesday, Howard argues that Hyatt was terminated in retaliation for her association with Shea, a progressive candidate, in violation of her free speech and due process rights. "This is not simply a Republican-Democrat thing," Howard wrote in an email to the *Chronicle*. "I know plenty of folks who vote Republican who would be appalled by what's happened here – who believe in the 1st Amendment freedoms of speech and association. This is about a special arrogant breed who got mad because Diane Hyatt was identified in the paper as being a fundraiser for Brigid Shea. So they fired her," he continued. "Who's to blame for creating this culture of arrogance at the TWDB?"

Howard said Hyatt had hoped the situation could be resolved without a lawsuit, but the agency did not express any interest. "They declined," Howard wrote.

Merry Klonower, director of communications for the TWDB, said Tuesday that the agency had not yet received notice of the lawsuit, and has no comment on the pending litigation.

Hyatt worked in environmental policy for the Department of the Interior during the **Clinton administration** and for the Texas General Land Office before hiring on with the TWDB in 2006. She consistently received strong performance evaluations by her agency supervisors, Howard notes, and was promoted to coordinator of the state revolving fund – which provides loans for water projects across the state – in 2008. She says

the termination has caused her "deep personal pain" that has actually resulted in physical distress. "This violation of my civil rights shows that no matter how diligent one is at their job, the agency can arbitrarily remove us on a pretext," Hyatt wrote in a statement. "Hundreds of other employee emails were political, many of them [sent by] managers. I was singled out for being in the newspaper."

Readers may recognize Hyatt's name from the 2005 controversy over her receiving contract work with the **Austin Clean Water Program**, for which her partner, Bill Moriarty, was director. The city ousted Moriarty even though he had no control over the contract assigned to Hyatt. Moriarty and Hyatt were ultimately cleared after investigators, including with the city auditor's office, found no evidence of wrongdoing.

– Jordan Smith



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Wish List

Give 'Til It Helps, Part 2

BY KATE X MESSER

Holiday greetings, friends,

Each year, *The Austin Chronicle* invites local non-profits to submit lists of the things they need to serve our community. We encourage you to research the details on what specific things are needed (some are legal mandates, so please do call ahead to make sure your gift is appropriate). Hint: Nonprofits always need computers/accessories, copies/printing, cash, and your love (i.e., volunteer hours). Let's support the good these folks do all year long. Let's fulfill some wishes, Austin.

— Kate X Messer

Compiled by Kate X Messer and Lisa Montierth. See the full list at austinchronicle.com/wishlist.



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www.advocacyoutreach.org
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THE HIGHTOWER REPORT BY JIM HIGHTOWER

The Selling of Obama's Inauguration

He did it. Unfortunately. Sadly. Disappointingly.

President Obama, reversing his own honorable precedent for his first **inaugural**, has chosen this time to have corporations pay for his big hoorah. This multimillion-dollar infusion of **corporate cash** is a crass intrusion by favor-seeking private interests into what ought to be a purely public occasion.

Why can't we have even one corporate-free day in Washington every four years? Is that asking too much?

Obama essentially admitted that allowing corporations to purchase the inaugural is wrong when he tried to sugarcoat his decision by assuring us that every corporate donor will be vetted by White House lawyers to make sure they have no conflicts of interest. Does he think we have sucker wrappers around our heads? As pointed out by the vigilant watchdog group **Public Citizen**: "There's no corporation which has no conflict of interest."

Even as presidential staffers were publicly pledging there would be no favoritism for the corporate powers that write big checks, they were privately promising potential donors that the three days of inaugural festivities would include exclusive "**benefactor brunches**," allowing the elite to hobnob with

top administration officials. Getting your ticket punched for a presidential brunch, you see, buys you a rich serving of political access.

Incredibly, Obama is trying to cover over this special-access ugliness by declaring that the day before his official swearing-in will be a "**national day of service**." How noble! As a

symbol of America's commitment to the common good, he's calling on all of us to spend time serving meals to the homeless or picking up litter – except for check-writing corporate chieftains, who'll be busy munching on eggs Florentine, sipping from Champagne flutes, and helping themselves to plates of power.

For more information on Jim Hightower's work – and to subscribe to his award-winning monthly newsletter, "The Hightower Lowdown" – visit www.jimhightower.com.

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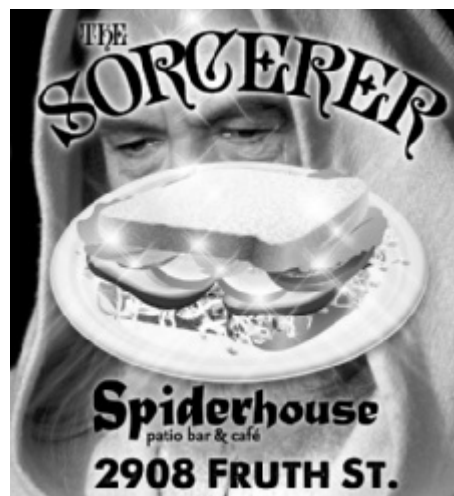
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Reefer Madness Revisited

The Marijuana Policy Project's Rob Kambia on the recent victories for legal marijuana

BY JORDAN SMITH

It's been five years since we sat down with Rob Kambia, co-founder and executive director of the Marijuana Policy Project, and what a difference those five years have made ("Reefer Madness," Aug. 31, 2007). Eighteen states and the District of Columbia have now legalized medical marijuana, Massachusetts passed a model decriminalization law, and just last month, two states voted to end marijuana prohibition altogether. And behind most of those actions are Kambia and the MPP. Indeed, Kambia has co-authored most of the medical marijuana laws on the books, his group spent years laying the groundwork for the successful legalization initiatives in Washington and Colorado, and the MPP

Austin Chronicle: Where are you compared to where you thought you'd be?

Rob Kambia: I think we're about at where I thought we'd be, because I knew that we were going to have to legalize medical marijuana in a bunch of states. I knew Congress was going to be a problem the whole way through.

AC: That's an understatement.

RK: Right. And I felt that eventually we were going to end marijuana prohibition entirely in a couple states and see where we're at. And that's basically on track to where and when I thought we'd be – because I knew it was going to be a long haul. I'm a very patient person.

AC: Given the Colorado and Washington [votes, legalizing marijuana for recreational use] ... are you surprised it was those two states or not? I'm not particularly surprised about Colorado, because it seemed like they were getting closer than anyone.

RK: For many years, the polling indicated that the states should have been Alaska first, Nevada second, California third. And then after that it would be a hodgepodge with Colorado, Washington, Oregon, and maybe Arizona. And then as time has passed, the polling has shifted and there were other issues with Alaska that took it out of the game. So, you know, as of two years ago, it became clear to me that these would be the first two states, but it was only two years ago.

AC: I wanted to ask you about Nevada, where this tax-and-regulate scheme [like Colorado and Washington] came first before voters [in 2002]. And it always looked like it was going to be a go, and then it wasn't. And then the second time it was, OK, you can make up those points ... because the polling was good. So what do you think happened there, ultimately? And do you think there were lessons learned there that were integral to getting where we are now?

RK: With regard to Nevada, the reason we lost twice there, in 2002 and 2006, was, first of all, because we had not only not any support from the political establishment, but we had vocal opposition from the political establishment. That doesn't necessarily make or break a campaign, but it does make a bit of difference.

And then also, another situation with Nevada is that they haven't really had any positive experience with marijuana culturally. And so that was working against us. Because a lot of folks in Nevada were maybe libertarian-minded, so they were open to the idea, but they weren't really exposed to marijuana as a cultural/business issue. So the lessons learned from Nevada include things like, run an initiative during a presidential election instead of during a midterm election – that was a major lesson. Another is, if you're going to run ads, which hopefully you have the money to do – and which luckily we have had the money to do in Nevada and in Colorado – you want to run ads that don't scare people. We used to try to run ads that would scare people about prohibition. But instead what we decided was to try to make people comfortable about regulation. So that was a major thing.

AC: That makes sense. So, then, were you surprised about California not [legalizing marijuana for recreational use in 2010]?

RK: No. And I told them in advance, the folks who were talking about running an initiative in 2010, I talked to them in 2008 and 2009, and I said, "If you run an initiative in 2010, it's definitely going to fail."

AC: Why?

RK: The polling showed it.

was – by far – the biggest financial backer of the successful campaign in Colorado.

A recent Quinnipiac University poll found that support for legalizing marijuana for recreational use now tops 50% nationwide, and in a USA Today/Gallup Poll earlier this month, 64% of voters said that once a state legalizes pot, the feds should back off and butt out. With the landscape of marijuana regulation changing so dramatically and, relatively speaking, rapidly, we took time out to sit down with Kambia, in town for a vacation, to discuss the future of pot prohibition, the role of the feds, and whether Texas will ever get in the game. [Editor's note: This interview has been lightly edited for clarity.]

Obama ended up – you know, at the beginning he was the best president on medical marijuana and now he's the worst president in the history of the country on medical marijuana.

AC: What was the problem there?

RK: It was just premature.

AC: So how much has your organization been a player in these initiatives, generally? And then also how much in these two recent and successful ones?

RK: Generally we were responsible entirely for the initiatives in Montana in 2004, Michigan and Massachusetts in 2008, Arizona in 2010, and then Colorado – we were 95% of that campaign in 2012.

AC: And you were big players in Nevada too, right?

RK: I thought you were talking about the winning initiatives. If you include the losing initiatives, we lost twice in Nevada, and we also lost ... it wasn't really our initiative, but we lost money in the South Dakota initiative in 2006. ... And then we also lost in Arkansas two weeks ago. So we've racked up a few losses.

Rob Kambia



AC: You didn't have anything to do with Washington?

RK: Our grants program funded an operation in Washington state from approximately 2003 or 2004 to 2009. And the whole purpose of it was to build political and institutional support for legalization so that one day we could run an initiative. So we built the groundwork there, and then we handed the baton over to the ACLU folks, who took it over the finish line.

AC: So you must be proud of this machine that you built – it's really come a long way. Is Peter Lewis [chairman of Progressive Insurance Companies] still involved?

RK: Yes, he's still involved. He actually funded about a third of the Washington initiative.

AC: I guess the question is what happens in Colorado and Washington. What do you think happens next?

RK: I think that both state governments are going to implement the initiatives faithfully and fairly. I think that both state governments are already involved in talking to the U.S. Justice Department to see how they can craft their state regulations so that they're least offensive to the feds. So that's already happening.

But, specifically, one development in Colorado is that the governor and the state legislature knew that marijuana was going to become almost the only topic of conversation in this upcoming legislative session, and they wanted to avoid that – because while they want to implement it, they don't want marijuana to be the only thing in the news for the next five months. So they're forming a commission, a nonbinding commission that will have a couple state legislators, someone from the governor's office, someone from ... the state attorney general's office, [and] one of our campaign people.



Members of the Texas Hemp Campaign proudly display their support for the legalization of marijuana by dropping banners from the 11th Street bridge on the last Friday of the month.

JANA BIRCHUM

It will be a task force, and the whole point of the task force is to come up with legislation that everyone can agree on, and then the legislature can just ram it through.

AC: That's actually pretty smart.

RK: Yeah, I don't have a problem with that. I actually think it's good for us because it's easier to have sensible conversations around a table of eight or nine people. ...

One difference between Colorado and Washington that was not highlighted in the campaigns ... is that in Colorado, we gave explicit permission to local governments to ban marijuana businesses. Not possession, just business. So what you're going to see in Colorado is a couple dozen cities banning businesses, and then some cities immediately embracing businesses. So the good cities will be Telluride, Denver, Aspen, Boulder, maybe Colorado Springs. Then the cities that will foolishly ban businesses will start to get jealous over the next couple of years because they're going to start seeing the tax revenues of their neighboring cities and then they're going to be repealing their bans. So I'm going to give you the chess game here, two moves in advance: Cities will ban, and then cities will repeal their bans, OK? ...

In Washington state, cities do not have the option to ban, so cities ... will be more concerned with things like zoning. Having it be reasonable - don't have them setting up next to schools, but they have to have them somewhere in their cities.

So that's one thing. Another thing to note is ... in Colorado the law actually allows adults to grow up to six plants - whereas in Washington state, adults aren't allowed to grow any of their own plants. So, even if the business side of things doesn't go smoothly in Colorado because of litigation or whatever reason, adults will still be able to possess, consume, and grow their own, and nobody will be able to do anything to touch that. In Washington, it's a little more precarious.

AC: Do you have any sense what the feds are going to do? How do you feel the Obama administration has done in the states where you have medical marijuana pass? Do you think there are any cues there to what we're going to see going forward with this?

RK: Obama ended up - you know, at the beginning he was the best president on medical marijuana, and now he's the worst president in the history of the country on medical marijuana. ...

When he was campaigning in 2007 and into 2008 he said, explicitly, on video and elsewhere - and we were the ones who [recorded] him - that he would not want the Justice Department to interfere with state medical marijuana laws. He was clear about that, and he was consistent. And then after he was elected, in 2008, Eric Holder said the same thing, on TV; and then in October of 2009, the Justice Department issued a memo saying the same thing. Late '07, '08 and '09, they were consistently awesome.

And then it all changed, and they became the worst by having federal prosecutors threatening landlords with property forfeitures. And there were obviously actual

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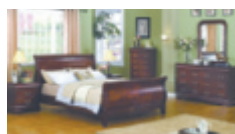
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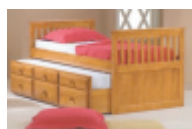
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raids, where they were kicking in doors, which is the worst that could happen.
AC: What do you think happened there?
RK: You know, I just wrote a column for *Playboy* magazine, which was just published, which deconstructed this, but I'll give you the short answer: I don't think it was a political decision. I don't think it's good politics to go after cancer patients. ...

I don't think it's good policy. I don't think anybody in the White House said they wanted to divert resources away from going after violent cartels and instead go after medical marijuana patients. I don't think it was a public policy thing. And I don't think it's ideological. ...

And so the process of elimination, it's that Obama is a bad manager. So even though Obama spiritually wanted medical marijuana to be deemphasized, his underlings are used to going after marijuana, because that's how they've been trained. And if you're a bad manager and you let your employees do whatever they want, then they're going to go after the easiest targets instead of the more important targets.

REEFER BREAKTHROUGH: WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The air was cold enough under the Space Needle just after midnight on Dec. 6 that the collected breath of the crowd turned to steam in the air. But that wasn't the only thing sending plumes skyward: It was the day that Washington's **Initiative 502**, the successful ballot referendum to legalize, tax, and regulate **recreational use of marijuana** by adults, officially became law. Under I-502, smoking pot in public is still illegal, but that didn't stop those gathered in the center city for the so-called "stash mob," and the police were nonchalant about the whole thing, instructed by higher-ups to only issue verbal warnings.

Indeed, the **Seattle Police Department** has embraced legal marijuana with humor. On Nov. 9, a few days after the historic vote, SPD spokesman Jonah Spangenthal-Lee posted to the department's blog a cheeky Q&A on the issue titled **"Marijwhatnow? A Guide to Legal Marijuana Use In Seattle."** The law allows the state a year to develop a licensing system for marijuana production and sale; in the meantime, Spangenthal-Lee offered a quick guide for tokers. Will police be able to smoke pot? "As of right now, no. This is still a very complicated issue," he wrote. "SPD seized a bunch of my marijuana before I-502 passed. Can I have it back?" reads another question. The answer: "No." At the bottom of the page, Spangenthal-Lee added a YouTube clip from *Lord of the Rings*. "It's the finest weed in the valley," Gandalf says in the short movie clip. "Gandalf," Bilbo Baggins later replies, "This will be a night to remember."

The historic votes of Nov. 6 – in Washington and in Colorado, where voters similarly endorsed an end to pot prohibition – will indeed be remembered, and debated, for some time.

But what happens next?

No one is certain how things will go in either state, while under federal law, the sale, possession, and use of marijuana remains illegal. Does that mean there's an inevitable clash on the horizon? **Rob Kampia**, co-founder and executive director of the **Marijuana Policy Project**, which essentially bankrolled the Colorado initiative, has another idea. Might the feds simply maintain a hands-off approach – under the guise of "reviewing" the state laws in question – and allow the legalization, regulation, and taxation of pot into the above-ground economy simply take shape and take hold? If the American people have anything to say about it, the answer is yes. According to a recent Angus Reid Public Opinion poll, 54% of adults said they personally believe in legalizing pot; 66% said they expect pot will be legal across the U.S. within the next 10 years.

"The writing is on the wall," wrote **Mason Tvert**, founder of **Safer Alternatives For Enjoyable Recreation**, which advocates for marijuana to be regulated like alcohol, in a recent email to the *Chronicle*. "It's simply a matter of how long it will take

AC: So now what do we do? In one way maybe he's given another chance to manage better and to fulfill what you believe. Or are we going to see trouble of a different kind?

RK: It's tough to say, because one thing we saw with the California initiative in 2010 was that the nine former heads of the [Drug

a news story, even though it wasn't really a news story.

But then, two years later, the same nine buffoons who used to head up the DEA wrote the same letter to the Justice Department and asked the same question. ... And the justice department didn't answer at all.

We want to pick off a few states every four years. It will escalate, obviously. We may get one state in 2014; we think we could get three or four states in 2016 – because presidential elections are better – and then who knows after that. ... I think it's just going to end up being a change in federal law at some point after 2016, and then the house of cards falls.

Enforcement Administration] – all nine of them – wrote a letter to the Justice Department and said, "Can you please give an opinion on this legalization initiative in California?" And the Justice Department waited a couple weeks and then wrote and said, "Yeah, we oppose it." And that became

That is interesting. Oops! They screwed up. The difference was that in California in 2010, there was no presidential election, and California's not a swing state anyway. Colorado in 2012, it was one of the top three swing states. So, the Justice Department – you know people like to pretend or to joke

for our elected officials to catch up with the public." More supporters for ending prohibition are emerging in Congress, he noted, and they're signing on to a pending bill that would do just that.

Upon passage in Colorado, Gov. **John Hickenlooper** immediately contacted the **U.S. Department of Justice**, inquiring about what the feds intend to do now, but the DOJ has not yet provided any "concrete" response, Tvert noted. Indeed, Kampia says that no answer is a fine answer: "I'd like them to keep reviewing it for at least another four years. We want them to do nothing. ... [and] it becomes almost impossible to put the genie back in the bottle."

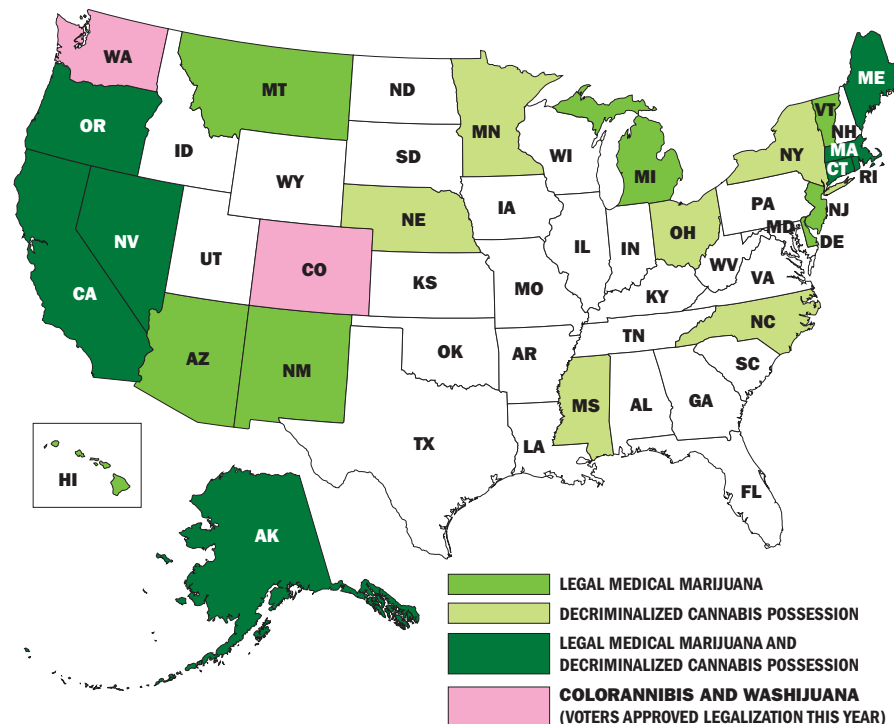
Hickenlooper is assembling a task force that will study the issue and provide recommendations to the Legislature on devising a regulatory system. Movement on that is expected in the upcoming session, which begins Jan. 9, 2013. Though Hickenlooper wasn't a supporter of the legalization campaign, he has acted quickly to enforce the voters' will. He officially proclaimed pot legal on Dec. 10, and he has already assembled the 24-member task force. "The Task Force shall respect the will of the voters of Colorado and shall not engage in a debate of the merits of marijuana legalization," reads an executive order. Chief on the task force to-do list: "reconcile Colorado and federal laws such that the new laws and regulations do not subject Colorado state and local governments and state and local government employees to prosecution by the federal government," according to a press release. The task force held its first meeting Dec. 17.

U.S. Attorney General **Eric Holder** said last week that the DOJ would be announcing a new policy "relatively soon," and in an interview aired Dec. 14, President **Barack Obama** told ABC's Barbara Walters, "We've got bigger fish to fry," adding, "It would not make sense for us to see a top priority as going after recreational users in states that have determined that it's legal."

As in Colorado, officials in Washington state also reached out to the DOJ in the wake of Election Day, and they're also still waiting for

an answer. Meanwhile, the state's **Liquor Control Board** must devise a system that "establishes precedent for growing, processing, retailing and possessing marijuana," reads a board statement. "Essentially, a system will be built from the ground up." The new law gives the board until Dec. 1, 2013 for the task; the board expects it will take the full year to come up with the new regulation scheme.

Meanwhile, pot smoking in both states is legal, as is possession of up to an ounce of the drug (though until the regulation framework is in place, it still isn't legal to buy pot, an odd contradiction). To supporters in both states – and to drug-law reformers across



the country – the electoral successes were a long time coming, and they represent the beginning of the end of the war on drugs as we now know it. At least that's the hope, former Seattle PD Chief **Norm Stamper** said during a November press conference hosted by the advocacy group **Law Enforcement Against Prohibition**. "We hope, and believe, that things will change." – J.S.

AC: OK. So they don't weigh in. What happens then if you get a Jeb Bush or some other Republican who doesn't feel the same way? You think maybe by then you've demonstrated that this works?

RK: Yes, after four years of marijuana being regulated it ...

AC: Becomes something you can't touch?

RK: Yeah, it becomes almost impossible to put the genie back in the bottle.

AC: So it sounds like what you really want is, maybe, two good years, or four, with these two [states] and then some other state then [maybe legalizes too] – is that the idea?

RK: Yeah, we want to pick off a few states every four years. It will escalate, obviously. We may get one state in 2014; we think we could get three or four states in 2016 – because presidential elections are better – and then who knows after that. But I'm guessing it'll escalate – I don't think it's going to be four states every four years forever. I think it's just going to end up being a change in federal law at some point after 2016, and then the house of cards falls.

AC: And then that would leave it to the states to do as they will.

RK: Right. It doesn't mean that every state is going to have legal marijuana after the federal law changes. I think what will happen is that after the federal law changes, most states will then regulate marijuana like alcohol, but in some states it'll be statewide, while in other states – like Texas or Arkansas – it'll be certain counties will be dry

AC: I was going to say, what about Texas? You told me before that Texas would, essentially, be one of the "come-along" states. That it's never necessarily going to be a leader.

RK: I haven't reviewed the interview I did with you five years ago, but I'm sure I probably said something like: states, federal, states. So that's what we're doing now – states [change their laws], the federal law changes, and then Texas will change after that.

AC: Exactly. That's exactly it. A come-along – we'll be pulled into it by time, like erosion.

RK: It's inevitable. Because Texans are going to get really frustrated if all these other states have really good economies and Texas is not having a good economy because cops are sniffing under people's doors and marijuana is not being taxed and Mexican cartels are setting up shop across Texas. That would be stupid. ■

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Ink Tank Lab

THE ART COLLECTIVE TAKES THE GLOOM OUT OF DOOMSDAY IN 'ARMAGEDDON OUTTA HERE'

The end is nigh, and Ink Tank Lab is ready. The artist collective, comprised of 13 floating members, returns to its birthplace at Co-Lab Projects for its doomsday-centric exhibition "Armageddon Outta Here" on Friday, Dec. 21.

Ink Tank began its group endeavors with "Future: Diorama!" in September of 2011, turning the Co-Lab space into a wall-to-wall display of knickknacks and intricate visual vignettes. It followed that debut with "Last New Year," a huge installation piece complete with life-size asteroid, time capsules, and a massive wooden tsunami wave tumbling out onto Rosewood Street.

To say the group is extreme is an understatement. It tends to focus on themes of time juxtaposed against reality. If our time is curtailed, how does that change our space physically and creatively? Its exhibitions are full of nuanced visuals and overwhelmingly thoughtful presentation. Its collaboration with UP Collective, "More Awkward Than Heavy," included an inflatable Winnie-the-Pooh bounce house stuffed in UP's main gallery with a large, multi-color fort built on the building's roof. *PARmageddon*, the hole Ink Tank created for AMOA-Arthouse's "Art on the Green" exhibition at Laguna Gloria, depicted a dystopian putt-putt golf course, complete with toxic chemical dump moat. Within its first year, Ink Tank has taken on three additional members, bringing new mediums and creativity to the group's dynamic, and expanded its mission: The group now seeks to provide both a visual experience and a performance piece tied together for its exhibitions. The performances serve as an opportunity to extend the themes of the exhibitions and provide audiences with a more interactive showcase.

At the forefront of its process is the idea of testing out exhibitions on each other. Emily Cayton, one of Ink Tank's founding members, recounts burying the time capsules during "Last New Year": "We didn't expect it to be so dramatic. It was surprising to me how moving it was, and I think we all wanted it to be moving. I think that was fun, that shared experience that was



performative. We're participants, but we are also an audience."

Casey Polacheck, another member, speaks to entertaining the Ink Tank group as much as outside audiences: "There were things hidden in the walls of 'Last New Year' that no one else ever saw." Polacheck laughs as fellow Ink Tank collaborator Austin Nelsen chimes in: "We do this usually just because we think it's funny, and we don't care if anyone else is going to see it or not."

Polacheck continues: "We are our most immediate audience, and I think that's the first step in trying to empathize with our [viewers]."

"Armageddon Outta Here" represents the aftermath of "Last New Year." The apocalypse has arrived, and the party is over. Now is the time to hunker down and bear through the end of days. This includes food rationing as well as a community garden, and Ink Tank will build out the Co-Lab space to represent an apocalypse-resistant bunker. The group even returned to the "Last New Year" location to retrieve its time capsules as relics to help influence its latest exhibition. "I think this [exhibition] is both fear and comfort simultaneous-

ly," says Co-Lab's Sean Gaulager. "Everything out there is scary, and the world is ending, but if you're here with us, you'll be okay."

Ink Tank's members unanimously agree that their work will continue, assuming the world doesn't collapse upon itself, but they have no concept of what their next project will be. When forced to consider what everyone's last words would be, the artists burst into loud conversation. "I love you" is shouted as an option, and laughs erupt from the group as suggestions are blurred out. Some verge on the nostalgic, and many seem to be further inside jokes that Ink Tank thrives off of. Gaulager ventures, "You should have been here," and Julia Clark quickly edits his remark: "You should be here."

And she's right. As Ink Tank Lab continues to grow, it will undoubtedly move outside of the art scene and receive the attention these ambitious and impressive exhibitions deserve. For now, 2013 will be met with great enthusiasm, not only as a sign of a continued human existence, but also as an opportunity to see the new world Ink Tank has to occupy. — Caitlin Greenwood

"Armageddon Outta Here" is on view Dec. 21-29 at Co-Lab Projects, 613 Allen. For more information, visit www.inktanklab.com or www.colabspace.org.

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A chanteuse and a piano man. You and someone special at a small table sipping something heady. If you're in the market for romance and intimacy in an evening of song, cabaret is darn hard to beat. But the sad fact is that, despite our area having no shortage of skilled vocalists and cozy places for performing, cabarets are about as scarce in Central Texas as snow flurries. I put it on my list for Santa, but now TexARTS is set to scoop the jolly old elf, delivering a new cabaret before he even hitches those tiny reindeer to his sleigh this year.

Coming Home for Christmas is a new medley of yuletide favorites, both the sacred and the secular, being served up this weekend by Courtney Sanchez and Matt Wilson, with help from a string of musical leading lights brighter than any you'll find this side of the Zilker Christmas Tree: Zach Theatre stars Jacqui Cross (*Crowns*), Tim Curry (*It Ain't Nothin' But the Blues*), Felicia Dinwiddie (*Ain't Misbehavin'*), Rod Sanford (*Ragtime*), and Janis Stinson (*Caroline, or Change*), as well as Paul Sanchez, Courtney's husband and a gifted singer in his own right. The two-night program launches a new cabaret series for the company, one that it hopes

will engage the patrons it has already and attract new audiences to TexARTS' Lakeway hideaway. When the company started looking for a local performer to inaugurate the series, Sanchez was at the top of its list. The female lead singer of the Atlantics and a Zach mainstay herself (*Rent*, *Porgy and Bess*, *Dreamgirls*) had been cast in TexARTS' production of *Ain't Misbehavin'* last year, but a competing commitment to sing with a Cirque du Soleil show that was touring through Austin kept her from taking the role. The cabaret gave the company another opportunity to present the performer, and it was Sanchez who suggested bringing aboard Wilson, the keyboardist and singer who made good as the Piano Man in the first national tour of the Billy Joel musical *Movin' Out*. When more of Sanchez's musical friends were included, says TexARTS Business Manager Jarret Mallon, "it kind of magically turned into this holiday show."

TexARTS is already making sure that this is one Christmas gift that keeps on giving. The company's Kam & James Morris Theatre is booked with its Musical Theatre Academy performances of *Footloose* and *Seussical the Musical* in the month of January, but the cabaret series will return Feb. 22 with the Studebakers, followed by *An Evening With Austin Haller and Kara Bliss*, March 8 & 9, and more acts waiting in the wings.

— Robert Faires

Courtney Sanchez



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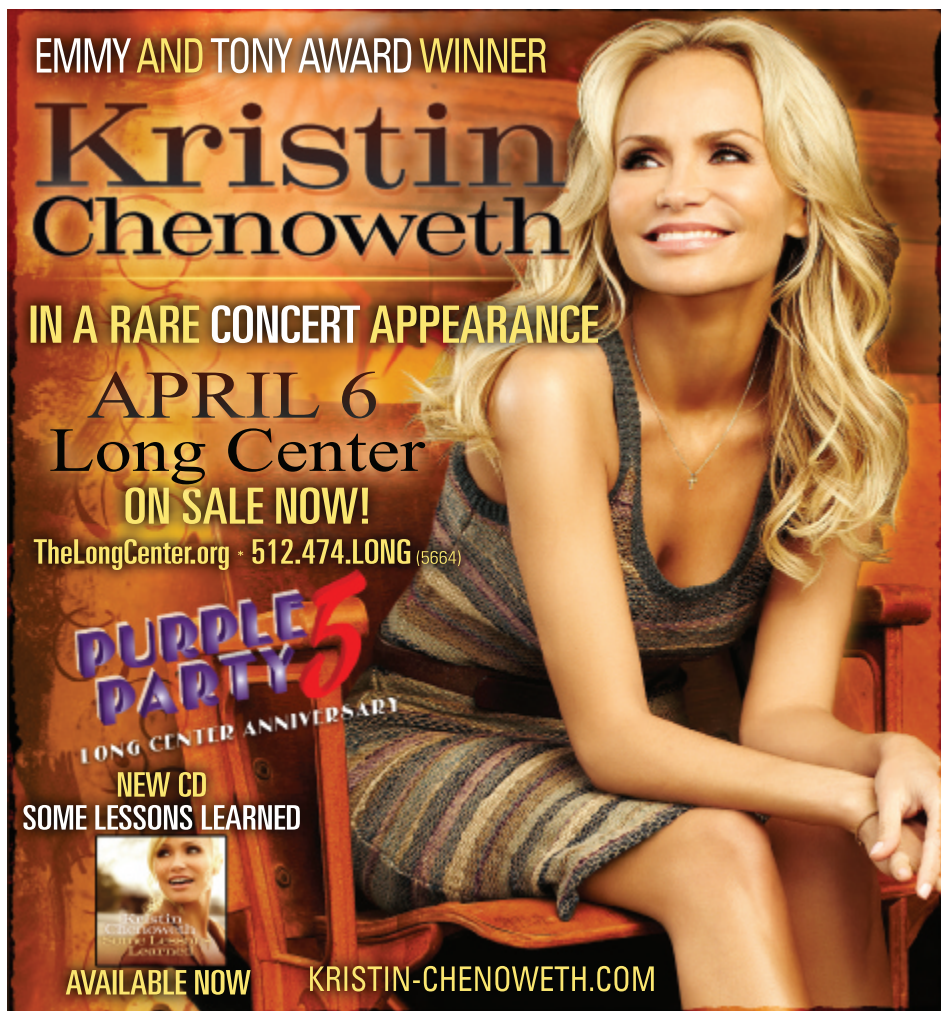
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Endgame

Nigel O'Hearn terminates Palindrome Theatre after three years, just as planned

BY DAN SOLOMON

It's a Monday afternoon at Thunderbird Coffee, and Nigel O'Hearn is on the patio – there are no tables open inside. But even though it's the first cold day of December, he seems to have enough nervous energy to keep himself warm. In a little over four hours, his play *The Attic Space* will have its press preview, and despite a three-year run making theatre with his company, Palindrome, O'Hearn's never felt this tense about the opening of a show. "I don't know how this play is going to be received," he says. "I'm probably too close to it to understand, but it could be a catastrophe. Not only is theatre never surefire, but I feel more hanging-out-naked-in-the-wind than I have in a long time on a play."

O'Hearn has been the artistic director of Palindrome since its conception, but this is the first play that the company has produced that he's both written and directed. It'll also be the last. Part of the plan for Palindrome since its beginning was that it came with a self-destruct timer counting down from three years. After *The Attic Space*, it's set to go off.

That's an unusual choice for a young company, but O'Hearn is an unusual guy. A native Austinite and St. Edward's University graduate – he received degrees in English composition and general theatre studies in an attempt "to cobble together a playwriting degree between the departments" – the 25-year-old O'Hearn started Palindrome as a three-year project explicitly to produce classic and canonical work in a town known for providing ample opportunities for young playwrights to have their work produced.

When you talk about unusual choices for Austin theatremakers, O'Hearn's decision to devote a lot of time, energy, and resources to developing the reputation of a company that he's planning to pull the plug on in three years certainly stands out. A guy who

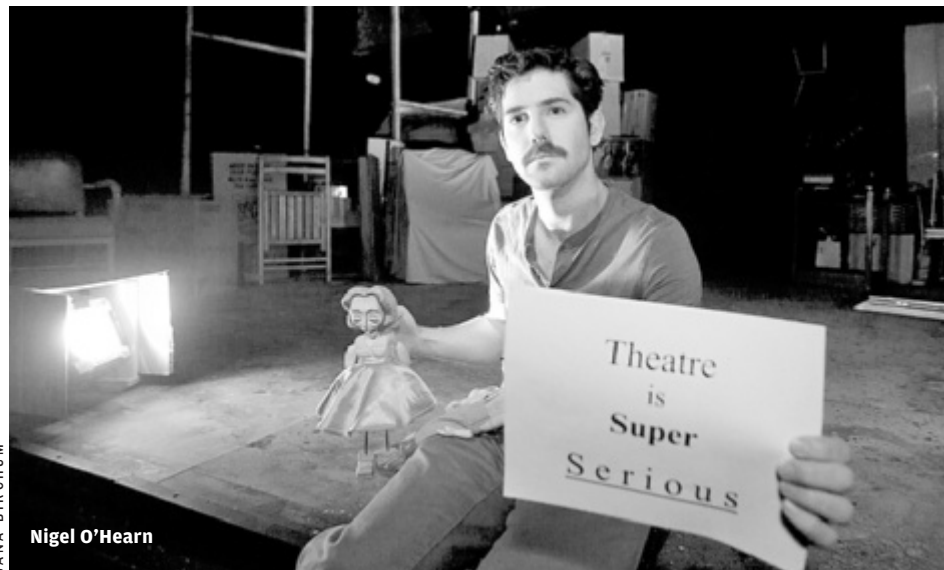
strung together two degrees in order to educate himself as a playwright has used his company's not-insignificant resources (Palindrome's recent revival of *All My Sons* cost \$25,000) to produce the work of Arthur Miller, Samuel Beckett, and Henrik Ibsen, waiting until its last show to put on a play that he wrote. These are definitely unusual choices, but O'Hearn has some unusual ideas about what he wants to do in theatre.

Palindrome Theatre was co-founded in 2010 by O'Hearn and director/actress Kate Eminger. From the outset, they conceived it as something that they'd do for three years, though the reason was fairly common among young Austin theatremakers: They were planning to move at some point to a city where the young and ambitious have a better chance of making a career in the field. "We were young, we had just graduated from school, and I think that it was a way of doing work, and doing work that could take you to another city," O'Hearn explains. "That's what [Kate] wanted: a foundation of work. Out of that grew: 'We're not going to do this forever.'"

Part of the plan for Palindrome was that it came with a self-destruct timer counting down from three years. After *The Attic Space*, it's set to go off.

Early on in the company's life, though, Eminger found that even a three-year commitment to making theatre in Austin wasn't in line with her ambitions, and she moved to New York. Austin Sheffield, another founding member, moved into the producing director role, and the company expanded. The three-year plan remained in effect, though its purpose changed.

"It became about trying to use that context of terminality to free up and explore work on more than just a production-by-



production basis," O'Hearn says. "It felt just long enough to do a season like this for the final season. Three years felt like the right commitment time. If there was going to be terminality around it – [if it were] five years, you'd start to amass a certain infrastructure, and any less than three years would feel unfinished." O'Hearn, at this point, seems enamored of the options that the end of Palindrome provides him – while he has no definitive plans for what's next beyond staying in Austin for at least another

The company has staged Samuel Beckett's *Endgame*, Sarah Ruhl's *Melancholy Play*, Edward Albee's *At Home at the Zoo*, Hedda Gabler, Dario Fo's *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, Arthur Miller's *All My Sons*, and now O'Hearn's *The Attic Space*. With the exception of O'Hearn's original, all are works that you might find on a high school drama teacher's shelf. Most young artists with O'Hearn's sensibilities – that is to say, those who drop phrases like "context of terminality" easily into a conversation – tend to want to set the world on fire, but for O'Hearn, setting the world on fire involved trying to find ways to bring out the urgency he felt when he read these established plays.

"When we started in 2010, I don't think we were the only company doing more canonical work, but you tended to find it at venues like Austin Playhouse," he explains. "I don't think they do bad work, but I think there's a real separation between the progressive Austin theatre that's celebrated on somewhat of a national level, and what feels more like a community theatre. We were trying to bring some of the tenets of that traditional theatre and bridge it with this progressive excitement."

Palindrome certainly sought to do that in its time producing that work. In addition to adapting *Hedda Gabler*, O'Hearn wrote a

er year to help grow his family's pool-cleaning business, he likes the idea of focusing on his craft as a playwright and pursuing opportunities in New York or London – a dramatic change from producing and staging classic scripts in Austin for three years.

In its brief life, Palindrome has produced seven plays (eight, if you count the second staging of O'Hearn's adaptation of Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler*, which the company took to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2011), and there's a commonality to all of its choices.

The Attic Space
Salvage Vanguard Theater,
2803 Manor Rd., 736-5191
www.palindrometheatre.com
Through Dec. 22
Running time: 1 hr., 20 min.

It is difficult to describe *The Attic Space*, a new play from Palindrome Theatre and, according to the company, its last production.

This should not be mistaken as a condemnation of the show. On the contrary, cast and crew present a good production of the original script by artistic director and first-time playwright Nigel O'Hearn, who also directs. The script itself is impressive for a playwright



Unpacking a marriage's memories (l-r): Babs George, Helyn Rain Messenger, and Ev Lunning Jr. in *The Attic Space*

without much production experience, and the set design from George Marsolek – an entire attic constructed in the playing space of Salvage Vanguard Theater – is thorough. Lead actors Babs George as Harriett and Ev Lunning Jr. as Harold are established pros who turn in solid, thoughtful performances.

The trouble comes when trying to explain the play itself.

The dialogue points squarely to Pinter and Albee for influences, which means that "clear" and "easy" are two words that should not be used to describe *The Attic Space*. Instead, it's a play that allows characters to speak almost, but not quite, realistically, demanding that the audience listen on a different level. It's about letting the entire work wash over one's ears and drawing conclusions from the experience as a whole, rather than picking apart individual exchanges in hopes of discovering a central meaning after only one viewing of the play.

The play takes place in the attic of a house, where Harriett has hidden herself, apparently paralyzed by her own memories. Her husband Harold pops through the door from below,

justifiably wondering what's going on and if she's all right. The two then play out what is in essence their entire decades-long marriage: fights and intimacy, misguided accusations and confessions. After they reach a point of some conclusion, they take a pair of puppets (designed by Tara Cooper, with puppetry action staged by Caroline Reck) and play out the same interactions they just struggled through in an attempt to understand what just happened, but this time, each plays the other's role using the puppet.

As in a marriage, neither partner is a clear winner or loser in their conflict, nor is the conflict itself that clear. It is intriguing, however. It's also sensitive in its exploration of two lives in their twilight years and what it means to try and understand the mountain of experiences and memories comprising a shared life.

Well wishes are due to the members of Palindrome Theatre, who have completed a solid final chapter of the company's oeuvre and who we hope will continue to contribute to Austin theatre under other company names.

– Elizabeth Cobbe

new ending for *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* in an attempt to tie the play's themes to the Austin Police Department's Justification of Force policy, and with *All My Sons*, focused on making Miller's points about the Military Industrial Complex resonate with contemporary audiences.

Getting those themes across in the theatre is the reason that O'Hearn says he was determined to put on that work rather than his own. "I don't think my work is as good as Arthur Miller's work," he says with a self-aware laugh. "It would have been harder to make a case for theatre as social urgency, because I don't think I'm at a place where I'm writing work that has a stronger social message yet. A play like *All My Sons*, and especially a play like *Hedda Gabler* – those are the foundational documents of the theatre that invigorates this town. I think it would be hard to take my work and tie it to Palindrome's mission of taking classic work and showing it to have a social urgency."

Now, though, Palindrome's run is nearly finished, and it's time for O'Hearn to show what he's got as a playwright himself. So how did the six productions from the canon inform *The Attic Space*?

"I don't think I could or should be writing a play like *All My Sons*," O'Hearn says. "That is not what it's taught me. Having a sense that those works can be done in an invigorated way is not the same as what I want to write as a writer. But I've learned that what I really want to do is provide

people with just enough of what they're familiar with. Accessibility for the majority of the play is greater than confusion for the entirety for the sake of being explosive. An explosion is better used a couple of times."

O'Hearn doesn't claim that *The Attic Space* is as effective as other plays his company has produced or even that it manages to bring that social urgency – he's big on "We'll see if it works" and "I don't know" when he talks about it in those terms. But he's confident that, whether he succeeds or fails with the play, theatre is the medium that's uniquely situated to do what he's interested in – which is trying to bring a room full of people together as a community to reflect the world in which they live.

"If you were to describe theatre to an alien from another planet," O'Hearn starts, by way of explaining why it was important to him to ensure that Palindrome's mission included a component about social relevance, "I think: 'A group of people agree to sit in a room while some other people pretend for a really long time – to the point where they're believing it – and neither party feels like it's about them. Each party feels like it's about the pretend story.' When it's at its best, something is manifested outside of the human mind. That sort of thing usually only happens in dreams."

The Attic Space continues through Dec. 22, Thursday-Saturday, 8pm, at Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd. For more information, call 736-5191 or visit www.palindrometheatre.com.

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All artists, programs, and dates subject to change

EXHIBITIONISM



COURTESY OF DOUG BLEMKER

Billy Elliot the Musical

**Bass Concert Hall,
2350 Robert Dedman Dr., 477-6060
www.texasperformingarts.org
Through Dec. 16
Running time: 2 hr., 50 min.**

There were some adorable and insanely talented kids onstage last week – and I'm not talking about the ones running out of Mother Ginger's skirt at the Long Center (though they're pretty swell, too). Across the river, a gaggle of wee ballerinas, an "expressive" young closet queen, and a kid who just wants to dance, dammit, took over Bass Concert Hall for a weeklong engagement of the national tour of *Billy Elliot the Musical*.

This uplifting drama about a boy with unorthodox dreams in the midst of the mid-Eighties UK miners' strike has won just about every theatre award that exists, and for good reason. It has an electric-guitar-meets-brass-band score by the (Lion) King of Broadway, Sir Elton John (it's a bit heavy on the guitar, if you ask me); a precious, if

somewhat conventional, book and lyrics by Lee Hall, adapting his 2000 film; and – my favorite part – radiant choreography by Peter Darling that makes you want to run out and sign up for ballet classes. The actors' north-east English accents (complete with plenty of dirty Britishisms), Ian McNeil's metamorphosing set, Rick Fisher's well-placed use of shadow, and Nicky Gillibrand's rainbow palette of Eighties duds complete Billy's working-class world.

Though Tuesday's performance got off to a slow start, the cast of the touring production picked up steam with the exceptional "Solidarity," a stunning number in which the tutu-ed ballet girls dance next to bobbies and the picket line to chronicle the negative progress of the strike as Billy learns to pirouette. Other enjoyable moments that garnered plenty of guffaws included grandma's (Patti Perkins) irreverent recollection of Billy's granddad (the sod!) and Billy's bestie Michael's (Cameron Clifford, alternating with Jake Kitchin) delightful declaration of his personal style in the glittering "Expressing Yourself."

Janet Dickinson, as Billy's chain-smoking, leg-warmer-wearing dance teacher, and Rich Hebert, as his tough father, also gave excellent performances, but in the end, the boy wonder stole the show. I saw Broadway veteran Ben Cook in the titular role, though four other young men in the company share the demanding part (Kylend Hetherington, Drew Minard, Noah Parets, and Mitchell Tobin). Onstage for nearly all of the lengthy show, Cook showed an impressive physical and emotional range as he tapped, cartwheeled, fouyetted, and boogied. So much talent! For someone so young!

According to Wikipedia, Cook celebrated his 15th birthday on Tuesday. While I wish him an HBD, I do hope he's not getting too old to play 11-year-old Billy just yet. – Jillian Owens

Noël: An Early Christmas Eurotour

First English Lutheran Church, 3001 Whitis Friday, Dec. 14

"Join us as we explore Christmas traditions from as many diverse European cultures as we can within one concert," heralded the marketing copy for Texas Early Music Project's *Noël: An Early Christmas Eurotour*. Upon sitting down with my program, I realized how accurate that description was: 23 pieces were to be performed, surveying music of France, Czechoslovakia, Italy, England, Ireland, Hungary, and more. Readers of my previous reviews of Austin's early music concerts know that I'm a big fan of both early music in general and its robust local representation in particular. But I must admit to having entered into my first TEMP concert with the reservation that an epically lengthy evening was ahead. Thanks to the programming sensibilities of Artistic Director Daniel Johnson, how-

**Daniel Johnson and the musicians of TEMP**

ever, my fears were quickly allayed. We were whisked away on a fast-paced tour of Europe, and while the intonation wasn't always spot-on or the ensemble work constantly precise, the musical gems made up for any rough patches along the way.

Perhaps the evening's most unique moment was heard in the kickoff to our excursion:



COURTESY OF TONY SPIELBERG

The Nutcracker

**Dell Hall at the Long Center,
701 W. Riverside, 476-2163
www.balletaustin.org
Through Dec. 23**

"Why do nutcrackers have beards?" asked my 4-year-old during Ballet Austin's matinee last weekend. I'd never given it a thought – they've always had beards. *The Nutcracker*, a vision lovingly adopted throughout the country from New York City Ballet's greatly missed George Balanchine, is about tradition. For 50 years, parents have taken their children to see Ballet Austin's version, packing performances with young eyes and ears. While my son saw a celebration in a magical land, I saw a long, satisfying tradition of dance: homages to original choreographers Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov, steps echoing Balanchine's speed and density, and freshness in the light comedic touch of BA Artistic Director Stephen Mills. In a decidedly unstuffy production, playful humor and clear pantomime add humanity to both characters and orchestra. Mrs. Silberhaus giving her husband the "come hither" sign before retiring for the night, naughty Drosselmeyer (commandingly performed by Edward Carr) pinching the maid, and the orchestra raising bows and horns out of the pit's depths elicit well-deserved giggles and applause.

Mills offers us a *Nutcracker* where gorgeous dancers and animated children, all in sumptuous costumes, take us back again for the first time to the land of sweets. Academy students are woven into the work's fabric and often push the

**How to rid yourself of that Rat King problem:
Ballet Austin's *The Nutcracker***

action along at a speedy clip. In a matter of minutes, the stiffly precise soldiers and clawing rats (looking like Dickensian ragamuffins) wrap up the battle, dispose of the Rat King's remains, and make way for the angels, who sweetly deflect attention from the Nutcracker's transformation. Creating packed action sequences that remain engaging and visually distinct while attending to fine detail is one of Mills' greatest choreographic strengths.

As the Snow Queen, Rebecca Johnson's breathtaking extensions and unfurling arms wring every last bit of expressive juice from the demanding role. She is confidently partnered by Christopher Swaim, and an extremely strong and buoyant corps of Snowflakes spin and leap through continuously changing groupings and nail closely spaced canons of movement.

While the company members in the act two divertissement all performed swift, breezy, densely-choreographed variations, I felt bad for them: All their craftsmanship and gorgeousness lost out to the candy hat, fake boobs, and campy air guitar solo of Mother Ginger (special guest Joseph M. Martin at this performance) in the 4-year-old vote for best performer. My guess is that happens every year. My test audience of one began to poop out during the Waltz of the Flowers, which is too bad because he missed Jaime Lynn Witts' playful and flirtatious Dewdrop weaving intricate patterns amongst the scarlet-clad flowers.

Having waited for my favorite part, the Sugar Plum pas de deux, I felt a twinge of disappointment. After so much warmth, flashing footwork, and luxurious counterpoint, it was hard not to be left cold by the courtly, reserved duet. Still, this old dancer's new family plans to make this annual production part of our holiday experience. Honoring tradition isn't about just passing down what we've always done, but using the past to help construct who we hope our children will become. – Dawn Davis Loring

David Francis' performance of the traditional "Cadet Rousselle" on the *serinette*, a relatively obscure instrument consisting primarily of a little barrel organ that emanates a high-pitched, flutelike timbre. The first *serinette* appeared in 1700s France, but the instrument played here was singular, having been crafted by Francis himself. Its distinctive sound provided an appropriately intriguing opening to a program full of pieces one doesn't hear every holiday, many arranged by Johnson.

The opening quarter, covering traditional French, Czech, and Italian works, closed with what was easily one of the concert's best-executed pieces: "Noël nouvelet," featuring soloists Jenifer Thyssen and Meredith Ruduski. But the highlight of the concert for me was the gorgeous "Seven Rejoices of Mary," a traditional Irish carol arranged by Johnson. Solos provided by voices of especially diverse timbres (those of Cayla Cardiff, David Lopez, Jeffrey Jones-Ragona,

and Thyssen) wafted through the hall, filling it with pastoral sounds of Ireland that most listeners would surely find familiar. Indeed, it provided one of the night's most recognizable and soulful offerings.

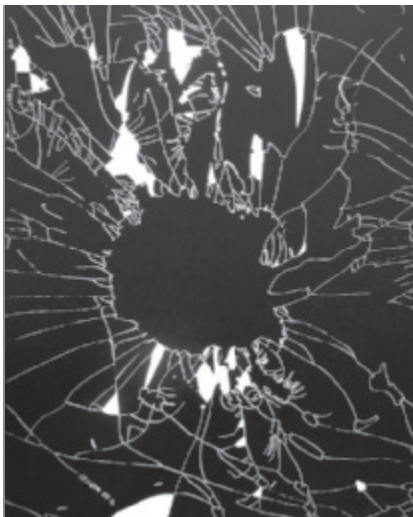
Such heartwarming sounds, those which commune intimately with the spirit, were welcome indeed on Dec. 14, a day fraught with tragedy. In his opening remarks, Johnson reflected on the healing power of music shared together, and, though the evening included a couple of false starts when he ceased the playing and restarted a piece, the audience didn't seem to mind. Johnson and company's focus on getting it right – as opposed to muddling through – served as a potent reminder of the power of fresh beginnings. A special kind of empathy rode the waves of that evening's songs of Christmas, one that implored as steadfastly as did Dickens, "God bless us, everyone."

– Adam Roberts



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VIEWPOINTS

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Laguna Gloria

Associate Curator Rachel Adams speaks about the works in *ShapeShifting*, expanding the role chance plays in the two artists' drawings.

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IMAGES: Nick Cave, *Soundsuit*, 2011, Mixed media, 109 x 34 x 30 inches, Private Swiss Collection, Photograph: James Prinz Photography, Chicago.

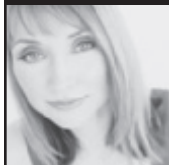
Ann Tarantino, (detail) *Future Perfect*, 2012, Laser-cut paper and acetate, Dimensions variable, Courtesy of the Curator's Office, Washington, D.C.

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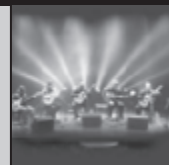
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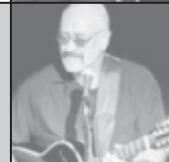
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R. CARLOS NAKAI, EATON & CLIPMAN	4/23/13
JANE MONHEIT W/ MARK O'CONNOR	4/24/13
DAVID SANBORN TRIO W/ JOEY DEFRANCESCO	4/25/13
PURE PRAIRIE LEAGUE	4/28/13
KARLA BONOFF	5/2/13
MCCOY TYNER TRIO	5/3/13

DAVID WILCOX	5/10/13
ACOUSTIC ALCHEMY	5/17/13
OLIVER RAJAMANI	5/19/13
HUGH MASEKELA	6/14/13
JUST ADDED STEVE TYRELL	6/16/13
POCO	6/23/13
FIREFALL	7/26/13
ATLANTA RHYTHM SECTION	8/18/13
WILLIE & LOBO	8/25/13
PAULA POUNDSTONE	8/31/13
JUST ADDED JOSE FELICIANO	9/20/13
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GENTLEMANLY

The Perfect Gentleman: The Pursuit of Timeless Elegance and Style in London by **James Sherwood** (Thames & Hudson, \$65) is an elegant coffeetable book about elegant people in elegant eras. British luxury brands are coveted the world over. Heralded as the finest when first introduced, many products and "heritage houses" have lasted for centuries. But the things that comprise a gentleman change and evolve with different economies, politics, technology, and current mores. Fortunately, this book is not so snobbish as to dismiss the new wave, and the author is savvy enough to know that the more things change, the more they stay the same. The pursuit of exquisite luxury *never* changes.

MAGIC & MUSIC

Two weeks ago was a very special night at the Long Center, as the **Austin Symphony Orchestra** held its first event specifically inviting the LGBT community in Austin. **John Cherico** along with the **Austin Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce** oversaw the event, inviting many high-profile gay and lesbian music lovers to enjoy this performance. The endless labyrinth beneath the Long Center led to a backstage VIP room where we met with friends, shared delicacies and holiday cocktails, and mingled. Taken to our front-row seats in the Dell Hall, my companions **Jacki Oh** and **Mitch Schultz** were truly honored to be there for a special program

of **Stravinsky's Rite of Spring**. I'll leave the review of the musical production to someone who knows more about it than me, but it was the fascinating breakdown of the music that included actors portraying Stravinsky, and set designer **Nicholas Roerich** sharing the inspiration and process for creating this momentous piece of work. I also got to spend more time in proximity to actor/**Chronicle Arts Editor Robert Faires** (who portrayed Roerich) than I ever have in the over 13 years I've known him, and *that was wonderful*. Though not a die-hard fan of symphonic music, I was excited to be at such a thoughtful and inspiring event. Bravo to the performance, bravo to Austin Symphony, and bravo to John Cherico for pulling this great event off. More, please!

WINTER WEAR

On Wednesday, Dec. 12, the **Event-Planning and Production Design Program** at **Art Institute Austin** threw their annual show, **Winter Bazaar**, at Lucky Lounge. Big compliments to the crew behind this. The front row sported fashionista glitterati Jacki Oh, **Grant Hicks**, **Lara Semmelmann**, **Ross Bennett**, **Erin Bennett**, and **Kim Woolery**. The house was *packed*. The staging reminded me of **Gail Chovan's** show with the models at table-level, strolling down the catwalk along a narrow path lit with dozens of candles. But there, the resemblance ended. There were some wonderful models, exactly the right age and shape to show off the designs. Daisy

Duke shorts seemed to be the garment of choice on the runway, which tells you a lot about the age of the designers, but the garments were creative and professional. The finale was a thrill: an edgy collection of black evening wear by young **Sofia Mariel**. Surprisingly sophisticated and perfectly paired with this production, Ms. Mariel *could* be one of the chosen ones. Though there may have been nerves on edge behind the scenes, there was no evidence of it on the runway. Each model strolled at an easy pace, showing off the details of the garments and representing the work beautifully. As a fashion-show veteran, my only complaint was that (as happened in my own recent show) there were occasional pools of darkness on the stage where the model could only be seen in silhouette. If I have any parting advice to these students, it would be to make sure your runway is lit perfectly. Also, no offense to **Lucky Lounge's** incredible hospitality, but clubs are not a great place for a fashion show. Aside from that? Faaabulous time, terrific show, great company, and excellent work.



COURTESY OF MATT HORNER AND CHANTELLE HORNER

Model Miranda Borrego wears an ensemble from Sofia Mariel's finale collection at the Art Institute's Winter Bazaar.

Write to our Style Avatar with your related events, news, and hautey bits: style@austinchronicle.com or PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765.

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FOOD

Last-Minute Stocking Stuffers for Food Lovers

UNIQUE GIFTS TO PLEASE EACH DISCERNING PALATE OR DISTINCTIVE PASSION

The time for holiday shopping is quickly evaporating, but here are some suggestions for little last-minute gifts for everyone from home bakers to restaurant diners. Slip some of these things into just the right stocking and hang around to share the tasty benefits afterward.

• **For the caramel lover:** Over the past year, we've discovered two decadently delicious goat's milk (*cajeta*) caramel products, both for sale at Antonelli's Cheese Shop (4220 Duval). From Blue Heron Farm near Waller, try their *cajeta* plain or the bourbon-flavored over ice cream or pound cake, or as a dipping sauce for crisp, crunchy apple slices. Also look for the Original Goat's Milk Caramel and Salted Bourbon Goat's Milk Caramel from Fat Toad Farm (www.fattoadfarm.com) in Vermont.

• **For the grill, mixologist, or savory cook:** We're already devoted fans of Stephanie McClenny's line of locally sourced, seasonal jams, marmalades, and sauces from Confituras, but we've fallen hard for her newest product.

Citrus Salts (\$7, 4-ounce jars) come in valley lemon, tangerine, and key lime flavors. Sprinkle these delectable salts over meats, fish, or vegetables on the grill, or use them to coat the edges of cocktail glasses. They are divine.

• **For the cottage or professional baker:** We noticed the cute little rolling pin business card holders during the grand opening party at the new Make It Sweet location (9070 Research), and they have plenty in stock. Bakers beware: It's easy to go crazy in this store.

• **For the apron lover:** Like me, anyone who appreciates a cool looking apron will be totally jealous of the very cute Día de los Muertos-inspired apron from H-E-B's festive Cocinaware line of kitchen- and tableware.

• **For the chocoholic:** Cocoa Puro Kakawa Cocoa Beans are roasted whole beans tossed in white, milk, and dark chocolate and dusted with cocoa. They've got 12-ounce bags for \$28 and 2-ounce elf bags (perfect for stockings) for \$7. Look for them at the Downtown Farmers' Market on Saturday, Dec. 22.

• **For the ice cream or gelato lover:** Amy's (multiple outlets), Tè Espresso, Gelato & Bella Vita (1206 W. 38th), and Blue Bell (www.bluebell.com) all offer gift certificates, which means folks can load up to their hearts' content on taste-tempting flavors such as Mexican vanilla or molasses (Amy's), salted caramel or brown butter bourbon gelato (Tè's), or Blue Bell's perennial holiday peppermint ice cream.

• For the campfire cook:

Amy's Ice Creams has created a delectable update on a beloved retro classic. Look for their Big Kid's S'mores Kit, complete with Biscoff cookies, squares of quality dark chocolate, and homemade Mexican vanilla marshmallows. The gift of a personal dessert torch from Breed & Co. or Faraday's is optional.

• For the farm-to-table devotee:

The gift of a share in one of our area's many community-supported agriculture programs would be a very good way to spread interest in eating locally and in season.

• For the regular restaurant diner:

Based on my inbox, restaurant gift cards with a bonus are a hot item this season. Lots of places are offering enticing deals, such as the \$20-off card for every \$100 gift card purchased at either Manuel's outlet. New this year: As Texas French Bread embarks on its 32nd year, owners Murph and Ben Willcott hope to fund their expansion plans with a program that's a cross between a gift card and Kickstarter investment. As a \$100 Supporter, get \$110 worth of meals; VIPs invest \$500 to get \$600 in value; and Inner Circle patrons can put up \$1,000 for \$1,200 in meals and an invitation to the renovation-completion celebration dinner in the spring of 2013. I am so curious to see how this works out.

• **For the book lover:** Just as a reminder, any of these local books would make great gifts: *Afield* by Jesse Griffiths; *The Salt Lick Cookbook* by Scott Roberts and Jessica Dupuy; *Trailer Food Diaries Cookbook: Austin Edition Vol. 2* by Tiffany Harelik; and *Learn to Cook* by Hilah Johnson. Also, all three e-book versions of chef/nutritionist Alain Braux's award-winning cookbooks are available at the special sale price of \$4.99 at Amazon.com or Smashwords.com.

• **And if you happen to talk to Santa,** tell him I could really use a rack-and-roll for my kitchen.

— V.B.W.



JOHN ANDERSON

food-o-file

BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

We've got a lightning round of food news to end the holiday season! Fans of **Jodi Elliott's** pastries were disappointed to learn that her deal to take over the empty **La Boîte** spaces isn't going to work out, but the talented pastry chef assures us she intends to have a shop of her own in 2013. Look for more bake sales in the new year to help fund her search for just the right retail spot.

A former manager from Ruta Maya's late, lamented Penn Field location has taken over the SoCo To Go trailer in the Bouldin Creek Food Park (1209 S. First) and is operating **Ruta Maya eSpresso** as a licensee. The new spot opens at 6am weekdays and 7am on weekends, serving the delectable coffee for which Ruta Maya has always been loved, as well as organic and gluten-free meals made from scratch. Plans are underway to revive Ruta Maya's open mic, music, and spoken word programming in the open-air seating area overlooking Bouldin Creek. See a calendar of events at www.facebook.com/RutaMayaCafeEvents.

Chefs John Bates and Brandon Martinez are rebranding their Noble Pig enterprise as **Noble Sandwich Co.** as a prelude to the expansion plans they have for the coming year. "The new logo and brand is fresh, and we feel it represents where we are right now and where we want to go," Bates says. Keep an eye on www.noblesandwiches.com for announcements about online to-go ordering and a second location, projected for summer 2013.

Award-winning mixologist **Marcelo Nascimento** has developed a new cocktail program called **Tequila Underground** for **Tacos and Tequila** (507 Pressler). Nascimento will continue to be behind the bar on Wednesdays from 6-9pm through December, and will then move to Thursdays in January, whipping up \$6 custom cocktails with tequila and mescal.

Out at the lake, the **Uncle Billy's Brew & Que** outlet at Oasis, Texas, closed after Thanksgiving, and it's unclear whether or not they will reopen. The scenic rooftop patio is a pleasant venue for live music, but the restaurant never really seemed to catch on. Just down the road, **Sobani Kitchen, Bar, and Patio** (1700 RR 620 N.) has reopened after a remodel with a new chef and a new menu, offering what they call American food with a Japanese influence.

No sooner had our MM Pack raved about his food at **Hugo's Restaurant y Tequila Bar** (300 S. Lamar) than we heard that chef **Tyler Johnson** had left to create a new eatery Downtown. **Micheladas Cafe y Cantina** (333 E. Second) is now open with a very inviting Tex-Mex menu, plenty of cocktails, and a dog-friendly patio.

Contigo (2027 Anchor) co-owner Ben Edgerton is the subject of one of a series of short documentary films featuring Austinites who "personify the HELM Boots spirit through hard work and creatively driven lives," created by director Ryan Scheer. Look for it at www.vimeo.com/50250720.

Based on notices I've received about 30th anniversary celebrations this fall, I'm reminded that the fall of 1982 was also an exciting time for local restaurants. Happy anniversary to both **Hyde Park Bar & Grill** (4206 Duval; 4521 Westgate Blvd.) and **Las Palomas** (3201 Bee Caves Rd. #122).

Meal Times Dec. 20-24

► MIRACLE ON FOURTH STREET FOOD DRIVE

Hangar Lounge encourages patrons to belly up to the bar with a contribution of at least five nonperishable food items or a cash contribution to benefit the Capital Area Food Bank in return for raffle tickets and a drink voucher. The festive evening will include photos with Santa, raffle prizes, silent auction items, and dancing. *Thu., Dec. 20, 8pm-2am. The Hangar Lounge, 318 Colorado.*

► **END OF THE WORLD PARTY** Gather at Banger's to celebrate the end of the world, where they'll be roasting three pigs in the ground, Mayan style. For \$15, the menu includes roast pork, black beans and rice, grilled *shishito* peppers, grilled corn in the husk, and grilled salsa, plus Molten Mayan Chocolate Soufflés from Butterface Bake Shop. Limited release kegs will be tapped starting at 5pm. Buy special edition Banger's half-liter mugs for \$5 to fill with the rare craft brews you'll be trying. Live music 5pm to midnight, and an artist will be on hand to decorate faces with Mayan glyphs. *Fri., Dec. 21, 5pm-12mid. Banger's Sausage House & Beer Garden, 79 Rainey.*

► CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER

Chef Sonya Coté invites you to enjoy Christmas Eve at her restaurant with a menu that includes oysters Rockefeller, a surf and turf of Texas grass-fed beef tenderloin and Gulf shrimp, tiramisu made with Stumptown espresso syrup, and a glass of sparkling Cava. Reserve by phone. *Mon., Dec. 24, 7pm. Hillside Farmacy, 1209 E. 11th, 268-0168. \$45.*

Thirteenth B'ak'tun Bacchanalia

A Mayan feast fit for the end of the world or the beginning of a new age

BY MICK VANN

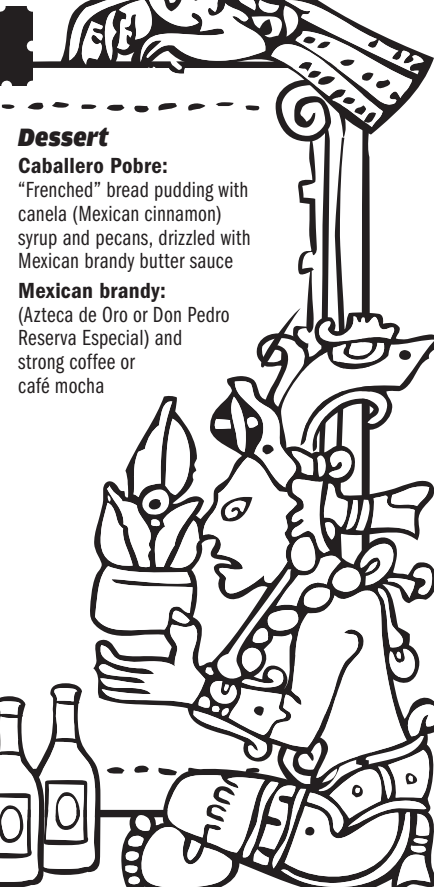
According to the apocalyptic soothsayers, Dec. 21 marks the end of the world because it coincides with the end of the Mesoamerican Long Count calendar, the final date of a 5,125-year long cyclical calendar. It was a linear calendar based on units of 20; 20 days equal 1 *uinal*; 18 uinals (360 days) equals a *tun*; 20 tuns make a *k'atun*, and 20 k'atuns (394 years) make a *b'ak'tun*. Tomorrow marks the end of the 13th b'ak'tun, and the end of the long calendar.

According to Mayan historical creation theory, using their concept of “world ages,” there have been three previous failed worlds, and we are now in a successful fourth world, the end of which occurs at the end of the 13th b'ak'tun (Mayan date 13.0.0.0.), or Dec. 21, 2012. Back in the 1950s and '60s Mayan historians suggested that this had some Armageddon connection, when the Great Cycle of the Long Count Calendar reached completion, and that theory held sway way into the 1990s. Modern interpretations by Mayanist scholars decree this fatalist theory pure poppycock and say there is nothing in the Mayan prophecy suggesting the end of creation. Indeed, most scholars say that the Mayans would see reaching the end of a Great Cycle as a reason to have a huge celebration, and that if the event suggested anything, it might more likely suggest a positive change in human consciousness.

So, you have two schools of thought. One says that the world will probably end tomorrow; you definitely party to beat hell – a bacchanalia like no other. The other school says it's the end of a grand cycle, our consciousness will be raised, and it is definitely, without question, cause for a huge celebration. It's rare that radically differing sides end up with the same result, and rarer still when that result ends up being a festive celebration. The choice is obvious: a Mayan-themed fiesta is in order, either to celebrate the end of creation, or the dawn of a new era, or maybe just because it's a good opportunity to throw a wingding on a Friday.

First Things First

The first order of fiesta business is booze, and it should probably be Mexican. A couple of beers to have on hand are Noche Buena (5.9% ABV) and Tecate (4.5% ABV). First introduced in 1924, Noche Buena is Mexico's only seasonal winter beer, made in a lightly sweet bock style, using Styrian hops. Noche Buena is the Mexican name for the poinsettia, which is featured on the label. *Nochebuena* is Christmas Eve in Mexico, and the last night of Las Posadas: Dec. 16-24, with the nine days representing nine months of pregnancy, as well as Mary and Joseph looking for lodging. It's the perfect beer to celebrate a world ending in December! Tecate is brewed in the American



THE MENU

Complete recipes for all the dishes included here are available online at austinchronicle.com/mayan.

Beverages

Noche Buena or **Tecate** beers,
La Paloma cocktails

Appetizer

Sikil P'aak: A dip of roasted pumpkin seeds (*pepitas*) and charred tomatoes, tomatillos, chiles, garlic, and onion, with sour orange juice and chicken stock – eaten with *tostados* (*totopos*)

Soup

Sopa de Lima con Pavo y Chilmore: Yucatecan lime soup, with carrot, onion, celery, garlic, turkey stock and meat, lime juice, cilantro, and avocado, and “burnt” (*recado negro/chilmole*) chile paste: charred *árbol* and ancho chiles, achiote paste, clove, allspice, pepper, oregano, cumin, lots of roasted garlic, and vinegar

Salads

Ensalada Xek: Mandarin orange and jicama salad with cucumber, sour orange juice, olive oil, garlic, pequin or *árbol* chile powder

Zic de Carne: *Salpicón* of shredded braised flank steak with scallion, garlic, chiles, green olives, radish, cilantro, and avocado, dressed with sour orange juice

Entrée

Cochinita Pibil: Pork shoulder marinated in achiote paste, sour orange juice, cumin, oregano, cinnamon, allspice, pepper, güero and habanero chiles, wrapped in banana leaves and slowly baked until falling apart; eaten with tortillas

Sides

Lentejas Yucatecas: Brown lentils, bacon, pork, onion, garlic, carrot, chayote squash, potato, tomato, chile, epazote, chicken stock

Arroz Verde: Rice sautéed with onion and garlic, cooked with roasted poblanos, lots of cilantro, parsley, lime zest, and chicken stock

Condiments

Cebollas Encurtidas: Yucatecan pickled red onions with sour orange juice, charred garlic, güero chiles, allspice, clove, oregano, pepper

Xnipec (aka “Dog’s Nose” Salsa): Fresh salsa of tomato, red onion, garlic, güero and habanero chile, sour orange juice, splash of vinegar, salt

K'uut Bi Ik: Pounded dried chile salsa of *árbol* and ancho chiles, charred onion and garlic, water, chicken stock, salt, pinch of sugar

Dessert

Caballero Pobre: “Frenched” bread pudding with canela (Mexican cinnamon) syrup and pecans, drizzled with Mexican brandy butter sauce

Mexican brandy: (Azteca de Oro or Don Pedro Reserva Especial) and strong coffee or café mocha

Adjunct Lager style; it's crisp and light, comes in a can (environmentally friendly), and tastes fine with some lime squeezed into it. Believe me, some burps will be recuperative when the world is crashing down around you.

The featured cocktail is La Paloma, or “The Dove.” La Paloma may be the favorite tequila cocktail in Mexico; it's definitely the most refreshing one. Think of it as a fizzy tequila Salty Dog, made across the border with silver (blanco) tequila, a squeeze of lime juice, a pinch of salt, and Jarritos Toronja or Fresca Toronja. If you followed

grapefruit bitters, topped with Topo Chico seltzer (the bubbliest of all *aguas minerales con gas*). It's the perfect cocktail to celebrate the apocalypse – or the enlightenment!

Second, Start on the Food

For an appetizer, we go old-school Mayan with a dip called *sikil p'aak*, made from roasted pumpkin seeds and charred tomatoes, tomatillos, chiles, garlic, and onion, with sour orange juice – to be eaten with *tostados* (*totopos*). It is the Mayan variant of a traditional pipian sauce. P'aak is Mayan for “tomato” and *sikil* means

A Mayan-themed fiesta is in order, either to celebrate the end of creation, or the dawn of a new era, or maybe just because it's a good opportunity to throw a wingding on a Friday.

that recipe in the States, the best grapefruit sodas, in order, are: Kiss, Fresca (ideally the Mexican version made with cane sugar), and Squirt. I slipped on my mixology pants and came up with a delicious artisanal version of La Paloma, using blanco tequila, fresh lime and grapefruit juices, agave simple syrup infused with grapefruit peel, and a dash of

“squash seed,” and the recipe dates back to pre-conquest times. Delicious year-round, this dip was traditionally served in the autumn, when pumpkin seeds were used to celebrate the harvest.

The soup choice is obvious; it has to be *sopa de lima con pavo y chilmore* – Yucatecan lime soup with turkey and “burnt” chile

paste. It's one of my favorite soups in the world, and one I always get at Restaurante Los Almendros in old town Cancún whenever I'm in that neck of the woods. The soup is made with turkey stock and meat, lime juice, cilantro, and avocado, but the main seasoning is Mayan *chilmole*.

The base of *chilmole* is *molli*, which means “sauce” in Nahuatl, so *chilmole* is a sauce, paste, or mixture of chiles. In Spanish, the spice paste is called *recado negro*, which means “a black-colored spice mixture used in cooking.” Dried chiles are charred black over a flame or on a comal, and ground together with other spices to make a thick, spicy, pungent paste. It can be rubbed on meats as a marinade or glaze, or used to season and thicken soups and stews. The heat level is based on the type and quantity of the chiles used; in the Yucatán, habaneros are used and the taste can be atomic. The fumes from producing the paste commercially are so noxious that making it within the city limits of Mérida is illegal.

There are a couple of refreshing salad courses. *Zic de carne* (or *salpicón de carne*) is a salad of braised shredded beef. Traditionally this is made using venison, but beef is an acceptable substitute. A lean cut like flank or brisket is perfect, as the flavor-packed meat gets shredded apart after a

long simmering. *Ensalada Xek* is a Mandarin orange and jicama salad with cucumber and garlic, simply dressed with citrus and a sprinkling of pequin chile powder.

The Main Courses

The big daddy main course is *cochinita pibil* – pork shoulder marinated in achiote paste, citrus, herbs and spices, güero and habanero chiles, which is then wrapped in banana leaves and slowly baked until falling apart. *Pibil* dishes are traditionally cooked in a *pib*: a hand-dug pit in the ground lined with mesquite coals and hot stones. A corrugated metal top covers the pit, which is then sealed with earth. Meats cooked inside a *pib* are first wrapped and bundled in banana leaves to contain the juices and flavor. The *pib* cooks with heat and steam, making anything tender and succulent; a home oven and tinfoil work in a pinch.

For sides we have to have *lentejas Yucatecas* (brown lentils, bacon, pork, onion, garlic, carrot, chayote squash, potato, tomato, chile, epazote, chicken stock), in honor of the porkeriffic bowls of lentils we used to eat at Restaurante Gomar on Isla Mujeres. Make the dish with black beans and you have *bul keken*, the traditional Monday dish of Yucatec Mayans. Beans need rice, so a pot of *arroz verde* is in order: a rice done pilaf-style, sautéed with onion and garlic, cooked with roasted poblanos, lots of cilantro and parsley, lime zest, and chicken stock. It's rich and herbal, spicy and tangy.

Salsas are a must, and preeminent is *xnipec* (schneeé-pek), or “dog’s nose salsa” (*xni* translates to “dog” and *pec* to “nose”), so named because it makes your nose wet and runny like a dog’s nose. This is traditionally made with habaneros, but you could use güero chiles to substitute for the milder *xcatik* chiles of Yucatán. But with the world ending (or getting better), why not flame out (or in) with verve and habanero? The other dominant salsa is *k’uut bi ik*; *k’uut* in Mayan means “crushed or pounded” and *ik* is the Mayan word for “chile.” Traditionally, it is made using the small dried *chile de país*, instead of the much spicier dried habanero, but *de árbol* chiles make a nice, spicy substitute, paired with some charred onion. *Cochinita pibil* screams for a bowl of classic Yucatán pickled red onions, made with roasted garlic, citrus, fruit vinegar, all-spice, and peppercorns.

Dessert is *caballero pobre* or “poor gentleman,” a dish that is served all over the peninsula. I like to call it “Frenched” bread pudding; the bread is soaked like French toast, and then dipped in meringue before frying, like a sweet chile relleno. It gets layered with a *canela* (Mexican cinnamon) syrup with pecans, and the top is drizzled with Mexican brandy butter sauce. Pair that with some really strong coffee from the mountains outside Xalapa and some Azteca de Oro or Don Pedro Reserva Especial Mexican brandy to end the meal. A sinfully rich end for what was no doubt a sinful life, or a rich beginning to portend the success and fortune of the years to come. You decide. ■

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FOOD REVIEWS

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For all those barbecue and pie fans out there, R.O.'s has reopened. Randy and Kathy Osban lost their lease where they had been located since 1995 on Highway 71, just before Hazy Hills Road (17 miles and change from the "Y" in Oak Hill). They had come to town from the famous Clark's Outpost in Dallas, which is owned by Randy's mom, and they developed their chops working there for years and years. If you've never heard of Clark's, suffice it to say that it consistently makes the upper tier of most lists of the best chicken-fried steaks in the state of Texas.

Now they are located about 400 yards west of their old location in a 24 foot chrome yellow trailer (yes, you cannot miss it), and Randy's new upgraded Southern Pride smoker sits hugging Big Yellow on an adjacent trailer. The new digs are 2½ acres of cleared Hill Country spread, with magnificent sunsets nightly from the hills above the Pedernales Valley. They have a portapotty, a herd of picnic tables, and rain shelter isn't far behind.

Randy smokes with sweet pecan wood, and his **briskets** are in for 48 hours. Get some from the fatty end, and it literally melts in your mouth, with a deep smoke ring and a spicy crust. The smoke-kissed



JOHN ANDERSON

sausage is medium textured with a nice snappy casing, and Randy serves both garlic and jalapeño variations. **Pork ribs** are St. Louis cuts, running around 2¼ pounds per rack, and a bite of these beauties is pork heaven; flavorful, moist, and all about the smoke. He's also doing meltingly tender **pork loin** and moist smoked **turkey breast**. All of these are available as **platters** (\$10.75-15.95) or as huge loaded **sandwiches** (\$6.75) – try the sweet-spicy pork loin.

R.O.'s has extra fine sides (\$2.50); a zippy, mustardy **spud salad** and a sweet and tangy **slaw** are the first two you'll encounter. Next come the **beans**: rich, smoky barbecue beans with chunks of pork loin, slow-simmered Southern-style green beans, and blissfully spicy black-eyed peas with chunks of jalapeño. Then there are a couple of fried items: **french fries** and **deep-fried corn on the cob**. The corn comes out incredibly ungreasy, caramelized, and sweet – much like grilled corn. It can't be missed; you'll want to go there for just the corn. Randy

also makes a superlative bowl of Texas red **chili con carne** (\$3.35-4.95) and one of my favorites: fantastic smoky **rib ends** (\$6.75).

He's frying a chicken breast now, but not yet cooking the chicken-fried steak. "I'm not doing it yet; it's kinda hard figuring out how to do it in the trailer, but I'm working on it," he says. "If you just have to have one, call me a day in advance, and I'll get the stuff to do it." Trust me on this one, and make that call; it's one of the best chicken-fried's imaginable: pan-fried, tender meat, thin golden batter, and rich cream gravy.

Kathy makes the best **pie** you'll ever eat. There, I said it. Her crusts are legendarily flaky, her fillings rich and perfectly balanced, her meringues sky-high and properly wobbly (slice \$3.75, whole pie \$22). These days she's been making chocolate cream and coconut cream meringue, blackberry, a sinfully delicious jalapeño apple, pecan, and pumpkin. To special order a pie or get a whole one, call a couple of days early. This pie alone is worth the drive out from Austin, but with the great prices, the friendly service, the wonderful barbecue and sides, and the Hill Country view, why limit yourself to Kathy's amazing pie? It's all good. Show the Osbans some love; it's the best food and barbecue you've never heard of.

– Mick Vann

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SANTA'S ASIAN ALTERNATIVES

Whether you received chopsticks in your stocking or not, here are some welcome contrasts to the usual holiday fare. All are open Christmas Day. Of course, Threadgill's is open 7/365 as well, and we've sussed out various other options for a Dec. 25 meal out. For the full rundown, see our Christmas Day Dining Guide at austinchronicle.com.

Chinatown Catch the dim sum cart as it glides by like Santa's sleigh full of surprises from 11am-2:30pm. Reservations are a must here this year. 3407 Greystone.

Din Ho Chinese BBQ will be open for what some say is the best roast duck in town, in addition to the usual favorites. 11am-10pm. 8557 Research.

First Chinese BBQ always serves up their generous Cantonese-style specialties on holidays. 11am-9:30pm. 10901 N. Lamar.

Hunan Lion Put some spice in your holiday with the Firecracker Prawns. 11am-10pm. 4006 S. Lamar.

Kawa Asian Kitchen Your Pan-Asian fortune is looking up here. Carefully prepared dishes and great service have made this place a success. 2900 N. Quinlan Park Rd.

Kobe Japanese Steakhouse See your holiday repast prepared tableside here, with a full dinner menu available all day. 11am-10pm. 13492 Research Blvd.

Korean Grill Located in the Chinatown center, Korean Grill is a favorite for family nights out. We get excited about the Ojingo Bockum (stir-fried squid) and the Ssambap with four kinds of bulgogi. 10901 N. Lamar.

Peony Asian Cuisine Regulars and newcomers alike will be glad to have this rich miso soup on a cold holiday. 10:30am-2:30pm and 4:30-9:30pm. 5308 Balcones.

Sushi Japon will be open from noon until 9pm. The sushi is fresh, professionally prepared, and complemented by a cold draft of Ichiban. Don't leave without tasting the black cod and yellowtail. 6801 N. I-35.

TC Noodle House has you covered for lunch with their regular menu between 10:30am-2:30pm. 10901 N. Lamar.

T&S Chinese Restaurant invites you to celebrate with dim sum service from 11am-2:30pm. 10014 N. Lamar.

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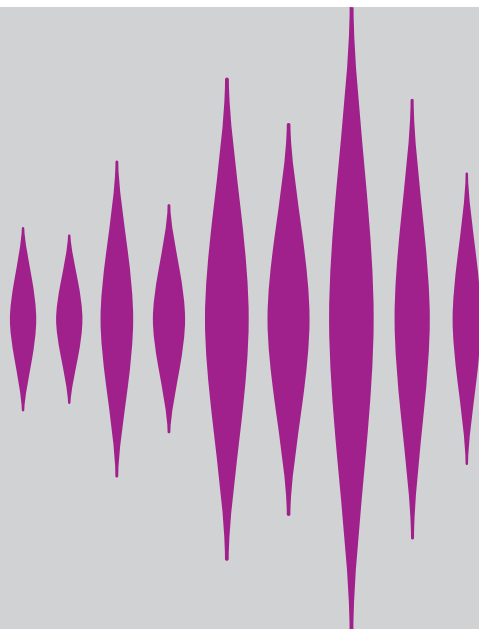
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AUSTIN MUSIC EXPERIENCE

SCREENS

Turns Out the Title Wasn't Prophetic

THE CURIOUS STAYING POWER OF SO-CALLED LOST FILM 'NOTHING LASTS FOREVER'

by Ashley Moreno

When he was 20 years old, future *Saturday Night Live* writer and comedian Tom Schiller was traveling and living in Europe trying desperately to be an artist ... of some kind. "It was kind of pathetic, and laughable in retrospect," said Schiller in a recent email interview. "All I knew was one of the components of being a great artist was suffering. I was truly tortured – though of course I can't remember by what, other than this preconceived, silly concept. During a train journey I must have looked so distraught that a man sitting across from me noticed my pained state, identified himself as a Swedish architect and said, 'You will get everything you want in this life, only you won't get it in the way you expect.' And, I swear, it came true." The stranger's prophecy found its way into Schiller's 1984 film *Nothing Lasts Forever*, which, fittingly enough, follows the journey of

a young man, Adam Beckett (played by *Gremlins*' Zach Galligan), on a quest to become an artist ... of some kind.

Never heard of the movie? You're not alone. Despite the presence of SNL players Dan Aykroyd and Bill Murray (playing a flight attendant to the moon), Schiller's funny and surreal first film was never released or distributed on VHS or DVD. "I think it just wasn't the kind of comedy film [distributor MGM] was expecting," said Schiller. "It's not exactly commercial." But with an optimism characteristic of the film's protagonist, Schiller sees a silver lining to the film being "lost" for so long.

"Perhaps it is an unexpected benefit," Schiller said. "If it had had a theatrical release when I made it, maybe it would have flopped and become more obscure than it is now. The fact that it receives a rare showing here and there, and has a limited group of

fans, and is shown from time to time in neat movie houses like the Ritz, it can remain a special film seen by those for whom it was intended." And as Schiller pointed out, "It does have a cult following: my brother and a few people on South Congress."

Count Alamo Drafthouse programmer Zack Carlson a member of that cult. Carlson, who will host a special screening on Dec. 23, called the film one of his top three favorites. "*Nothings Lasts Forever* has haunted the periphery of movie goondom for a while and was more renowned for being a 'lost film' than a great one. I was curious about it for the usual reasons that tie in with that type of thing – unseen curiosities, etc. – but I guess I never expected it to be just so goddamn good," he said. "It's smart but not cynical, heartbreaking but hilarious. It's beautifully made but constantly mocks all the pretenses

Tom Schiller's *Saturday Night Live* cohort Bill Murray co-starred in 1984's *Nothing Lasts Forever*, which was never released in theatres or on VHS or DVD.



of hoity-toity art. Plus it celebrates the real things that make life worth living: grandparents, hillbillies, true love, hobos, chasing unrealistic dreams – all that stuff." ■

A 35mm print of *Nothing Lasts Forever* will screen at the Alamo Drafthouse at the Ritz on Sunday, Dec. 23, at 7pm. Writer/director Tom Schiller will be in attendance, and prior to the feature, a rare reel of Schiller's short films will be shown.

Autobots! Transform and Roll Camera

'TRANSFORMERS' SEQUEL, 'PARKLAND' PREP 2013 PRODUCTIONS IN AUSTIN

by Joe O'Connell

Expect Michael Bay and Tom Hanks sightings in the new year.

An industry source confirms that a part of director Michael Bay's as-yet untitled fourth *Transformers* film will lens in Austin in 2013. A recent casting notice picked up by the website Spoiler TV hints at why: "The new female lead that they are looking for is a high school senior and her boyfriend a Texas racing driver." Can you say Formula One? How about Circuit of the Americas? Bay's production company Platinum Dunes has a history of horror remakes in Central Texas, where it shot 2003's *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre* and its 2006 sequel, plus 2007's *The Hitcher*.

Meanwhile, Hanks has already been spotted around town as *Parkland* gears up for a month-long shoot early next year. The official film description: "Set amidst the chaos and terror that swept Dallas the day President John F. Kennedy was assassinated, *Parkland* is the unknown but all-too-true story of ordinary people swept up in the tide of incomprehensible events." Why would a film so tied to Dallas shoot in Austin? Word is it's about the perfect location – in this case a former Austin State Hospital building that has the Sixties Parkland Memorial Hospital look the producers were after. In an earlier, broader incarnation as an HBO miniseries, the project



was set to shoot in Big D. But this time, "they said from the outset that they were going to do it in Austin," said Janis Burkland of the Dallas Film Commission. (The Metroplex also lost out on *The Dallas Buyers Club*, based on the true story of Eighties-era AIDS activists and featuring a shockingly emaciated Austin resident Matthew McConaughey; it's currently shooting in New Orleans.) Principal photography on writer/director Peter Landesman's *Parkland* begins in mid-January; Hanks is producing, and the cast includes Billy Bob Thornton and Paul Giamatti.

It will be a busy film January with Robert Rodriguez's sequel *Sin City: A Dame to Kill For* firing up again after a Christmas hiatus. And if I'm doing my math correctly, 2012 is the twelfth year in Richard Linklater's 12-year project *Boyhood*, which follows a family and their son through his school years. This all follows a suddenly busy 2012 for film production in the Austin area. New-ish Austin resident David Gordon Green was still filming *Joe* with Nicolas Cage as of last week, while Terrence Malick's untitled project ended the Austin portion of its shoot and was last heard from in Mexico. ■

Austin Film Critics Association Announces Year-End Awards

Best Film:

Zero Dark Thirty

Best Director:

Paul Thomas Anderson, *The Master*

Best Actor:

Joaquin Phoenix, *The Master*

Best Actress:

Jennifer Lawrence, *Silver Linings Playbook*

Best Supporting Actor:

Christoph Waltz, *Django Unchained*

Best Supporting Actress:

Anne Hathaway, *Les Misérables*

Best Original Screenplay:

Rian Johnson, *Looper*

Best Adapted Screenplay:

Chris Terrio, *Argo*

Best Cinematography:

Mihai Malaimare Jr., *The Master*

Best Score:

Reinhold Heil, Johnny Klimek, and Tom Tykwer, *Cloud Atlas*

Best Foreign Language Film:

Holy Motors

Best Documentary:

The Imposter

Best Animated Film:

Wreck-It Ralph

Best First Film:

Beasts of the Southern Wild

Breakthrough Artist:

Quvenzhané Wallis, *Beasts of the Southern Wild*

Best Austin Film:

Special Honorary Award:

Matthew McConaughey, for his exceptional work in four films this year (*Bernie*, *Killer Joe*, *Magic Mike*, and *The Paperboy*)

AFCA 2012 TOP TEN FILMS:

1. *Zero Dark Thirty*
2. *Argo*
3. *Moonrise Kingdom*
4. *Django Unchained*
5. *Cloud Atlas*
6. *Holy Motors*
7. *Beasts of the Southern Wild*
8. *The Master*
9. *Silver Linings Playbook*
10. *Looper*

The 25 members of the AFCA hail from such outlets as *Ain't It Cool News*, *Austin American-Statesman*, *The Austin Chronicle*, *DVDActive*, *Film.com*, *Film School Rejects*, *KOOP Radio*, *MSN Movies*, *Movies.com*, *ScreenCrush*, *Slackerwood*, *Smells Like Screen Spirit*, *Spill.com*, *Twitch*, and *YNN Austin*.





Mario Troncoso (r), producer of KLRU's *Arts in Context*, on location with camera operator Juan A. Izaguirre (l) and boom operator/sound mixer Isaac Hammons (center)

DIY, and So Can I

KLRU's 'Arts in Context' mirrors the collaboration and can-do of the artists it profiles

BY DAN SOLOMON

Mario Troncoso is in the Sky Candy studio, tucked behind the H-E-B on East Seventh in a converted former tortilla factory that's also home to local artisans like East Side Glass and Hops & Grain Brewery. It's Friday, Dec. 7, the night before the aerial circus arts company makes its debut at the State Theater – and people are practicing their craft. For the Sky Candy members, that means they're stretching a lot, painting sets in rushed preparation, and warming up to start dangling from the ceiling. For Troncoso, producer and director of KLRU's *Arts in Context*, that means asking questions of the aerialists as they do their best not to look directly into the camera. Troncoso looks relaxed as he does it, playfully inquiring about the nature of the work.

It makes sense that Troncoso would be comfortable in this role. The 38-year-old filmmaker has been producing these 30-minute documentaries at a pace of one every four weeks for the past year. He doesn't have a background in asking questions, but with that kind of turnaround, it's to be expected that he's getting used to it. Troncoso produces 12 episodes a year, and each episode is its own creation, eschewing an easy narrative format or a standard approach, in order to tell the story of whatever Austin arts entity Troncoso's lens is focused on.

"Every episode is unique," says Troncoso. "Every story is its own." Sometimes that's the story of a still-young organization like Sky Candy, which is about to take the leap to one of Austin's bigger stages; sometimes it's an internationally acclaimed project with big money behind it, like *Fantastic Fest*; sometimes it's a quirky-but-impressive group like *Trouble Puppet* as they work on an ambitious show. Troncoso chooses all of the subjects for the series himself and is the only KLRU employee who works on it full time. His crew is made up of freelancers, which means that Troncoso is always working. "I have four weeks to research, produce, and edit every documentary. That's totally insane."

Also insane: hanging upside-down from a metal ring 15 feet above the ceiling; starting a film festival in a city already overrun by festivals and specializing in international genre pictures; telling stories ranging from Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle* to *Macbeth* to *Frankenstein* with only a cast of puppets.

In other words: Whatever is insane about the schedule that Troncoso keeps in order to produce 12 episodes of *Arts in Context* a year, it's something that all of the subjects of his films can relate to.

□

Mario Troncoso first moved to the U.S. in 2000 because he wanted to be a filmmaker. "I left everything behind. I left my family, my business – I had a bar, a music venue, in Madrid – I told my family I was going to make movies and I had to get out of here, because I knew it too well." He took off to Houston, initially, to shake off that familiarity. "It was great to go to Houston, because it was such a different place from Madrid. The city, the people, the underground communities, the scenes – I needed that. You know how sometimes reporters will go to a third world country, because they need the culture shock? That was my culture shock, Houston."

Troncoso planned to start in Houston, where his best friend lived, before going out to New York to study film at NYU. But Troncoso never made it to New York. "I got stuck in Houston for four years," he says, explaining his reason: "You know – women." When he returned to Spain at the end of 2003, he was married to an American, whom he'd met doing documentary production in Houston. He spent four years in Madrid editing nature documentaries before they decided to return to Texas – this time to Austin, where he planned to finish his bachelor's degree in film at UT, while his wife pursued her master's. He soon began working with KLRU as an editor, and when the station was looking for someone to take over the *Arts in Context* series, he was available.

The series began in 2011 as a show called *In Context*, and it aired on an ad hoc basis, when episodes were prepared. Troncoso came on board at the start of the second season, which featured *Opera Odyssey*, the Austin Lyric Opera's camp for children – and he co-produced the next five episodes with Lauren Burton. The pair won a Lone Star Emmy in November for the episode on *Trouble Puppet* before she moved on, and he was presented with a choice between moving on himself and sticking with the series.

"It was that or producing reality TV, which pays a lot of money," he says. But ultimately, for Troncoso, sticking with

KLRU was a decision that made sense to him for the same reason that Sky Candy's performers suspend themselves from the ceiling of the State Theater. "I'm a starving artist, too," he says. "Here, I have full creative control, and this is what I want to be doing."

□

Different working artists in Austin operate on different levels. Some, like Troncoso and *Arts in Context*, have the backing of a small-but-stalwart institution like KLRU. Others, like Sky Candy, spun off with the support of an organization that had been there before (in Sky Candy's case, the Vortex Repertory Company). Some are independent passion projects, like the subject of October's season three premiere, orchestral indie rockers *Mother Falcon*. Some, like the improv comics of the *Hideout* and *Coldtowne Theater* – who'll be featured in an episode next summer – have bootstrapped themselves into existence slowly. Some are quixotic creations that require a 30-minute documentary to properly explain, like *The Intergalactic Nemesis*, whose episode will air in March. An organization like *Opera Odyssey*, which was the first that Troncoso featured, is rooted in education, while someone like dancer Sharon Marroquín, whose story will be told in February, uses her art to express a personal struggle. None of them makes much money.

All of the projects featured in *Arts in Context* define success outside of financial terms, which usually involves making something that the artist are proud of, and doing so with people they like working with. It's a community-based approach to art; for all of the growth the city has seen, Austin is still very much a small town in the way that its arts communities overlap. (Troncoso has interviewed composer Graham Reynolds for the *Arts in Context* episodes on *Trouble Puppet*, *The Intergalactic Nemesis*, and *Mother Falcon*; Sky Candy's Winnie Hsia is also a volunteer coordinator at *Fantastic Fest*, and was interviewed for both episodes.) The fact that Troncoso – whether he's telling the story of Sky Candy or another arts group – is both bearing witness to the art being made and making some of his own feels very appropriate for a chronicle of the Austin arts community.

"DIY art is the main type of art here," Troncoso says. "If the show is about fine art, then I'm misrepresenting the city. The city is getting big because of this type of art: people getting together, and struggling because nobody's making any money, to make great art. And because there's not a lot of money involved, they're able to do great things. If they were other places, maybe they don't have that chance." There's not a standard format to every documentary in the *Arts in Context* series, but Troncoso does have one question that he asks everyone: "Could you do this anywhere other than Austin?" He says that the answer is always the same.

"People do it here because it's Austin. It's this community. These things happen here because these people are here, and are willing to do it." That's a viewpoint that Troncoso is able to relate to. "I feel the same. That's how we do the show, too. We do the show because we make it happen. We don't make much money. If we don't have a flap for our camera, we make one with beer cartons

and we tape it with gaffer tape, and that's how we do our production," he says.

It's thrilling, as one watches the series of *Arts in Context* documentaries in order, to see that spirit come out in the various artists working in Austin. Financially speaking, something like *Fantastic Fest* – which brings Hollywood money and movie stars to Austin, and packs hotel rooms for a week every year – is a much bigger deal than the premiere of a new show by a young company like Sky Candy. But put into context by Troncoso and his series, it becomes clear that it's all one story being told. It's a story of what it's like to be an artist in Austin. That's something that doesn't change that much, whether your medium is puppetry, circus arts, planning the world's funnest film festival – or a scrappy public television documentary series that tells all of those stories to the world.

■

Arts in Context airs on the last Thursday of every month on KLRU. *Arts in Context's* next episode, on the La Junta Heritage Center in Marfa, airs Thursday, Dec. 27, 7:30pm, on KLRU.

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In the Mood: Plant & Griffin at the Continental Club last Sunday

Angel Dance

My alarm clock, apparently dialed in to 93.7FM, woke me up Saturday morning with **Led Zeppelin's** "Rock & Roll." The unmistakable voice of **Robert Plant** might as well have been a jackhammer, the way it tore me from a deep sleep. Hours later, he wandered past me at a nearby grocery store, and I was taken aback, as I often am, by life's mysterious connections.

My wake-up call, whose voice remains ubiquitous in the ear holes of every Westerner, also exists as another passing face around town. Robert Plant walks among us, sometimes pushing a cart full of bottled water. After shopping, I stop to eat some greasy counter food, and he's eating it too. As I load groceries into my bicycle trailer, I again see him – driving by in a car so modest that I could almost afford it. Our worlds aren't so far apart after all.

That very night he joined his squeeze, local folksinger **Patty Griffin**, for the first of two consecutive shows at the **Continental Club**. Like other Austin musicians, they do what they can to support their friends. The sold-out shows raised money for injured singer-

songwriter **Michael Fracasso** and the **Health Alliance for Austin Musicians**.

With **David Pulkingham** (guitar), **Glenn Fukunaga** (upright bass), and **Dony Wynn** (percussion) behind them Sunday, the couple harmonized on a tender duet of Plant's "In the Mood," Griffin's haunting song "Cold As It Gets," **Los Lobos'** "Angel Dance," and Zep's Hobbit

anthem "Ramble On," among others. The mood was lighthearted due to Plant's wicked sense of humor. Between each song, he bullshitted about his storied music career, joked about how old he was, and gently ripped on his backing band.

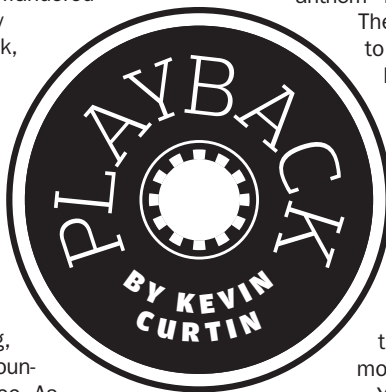
"I was in bands where it didn't matter about being in tune," he quipped.

"People don't have those kinds of drugs anymore," Griffin bit back.

Yet when the first notes of a song rang out, his eyes got focused and his physicality changed to familiar poses as he became the music. His voice, a trench lower than my morning jackhammer, sounded terrific.

Before they re-emerged for an encore of "Black Dog," Continental Club owner **Steve Wertheimer** took the microphone and summarized the sentiment of the audience.

"Pardon my French," he said. "But how fuckin' cool was that?"



Half Notes

► West Fifth Street honky-tonk **Mean-Eyed Cat** has changed ownership. The rustic bar, named after a gritty love song by the **Man in Black**, opened eight years ago and has since been a fixture for outlaw music. **Chris Marsh** reportedly sold the business to **Matt Luckie**, who's involved with venues **Rattle Inn** and **Brazos Hall** and various other bars and restaurants.

► Last week, celebrity gossip publications reported that actress **Renée Zellweger** is dating rocker **Doyle Bramhall II** after a photo of them smoochin' at LAX airport hit the Internet. Bramhall, an Austin native known for his work with the **Arc Angels** and as a solo artist, also plays guitar with a slew of well-known artists, including **Eric Clapton**, who loads into the **Frank Erwin Center** the Sunday of **South by Southwest**, March 17.

► While coffee shops are often havens for awkward open mics and frightening slam poetry, **Strange Brew** (5326 Manchaca) has gained a reputation for intimacy and integrity since it started booking shows in its Lounge Side room in March. "Just through word of mouth, this place has blown up and become an amazing scene," explains booker **Kacy Crowley**. Crowley, a veteran local musician herself, says the venue got its legs through weekly residencies by artists like **Jeff Plankenhorn** and **Will Knaak**, as well as a popular Sunday Gospel Brunch that features various Austin standouts. Now, owner **Scott Ward** plans an expansion to increase capacity and allow for the hosting of bigger bands. Until then, they've got a solid weekend with **Ian Moore** on Friday and **Suzanna Choffel** on Saturday. For those unable to attend, the concerts will be available in a live stream at www.strangebrewaustin.com.

► Soon-to-be-extinct music retailer **Cheapo Records** has slashed prices to 40% off until Saturday, when they drop to 50% off. The 15-year-old CD store says goodbye with in-store performances by the **Well**, **Tia Carrera**, and **Scorpion Child** on Friday and **DJ Tropicana Joe**, **DJ Hucklebuck**, **Bobby Trimble**, the **Bellfuries**, and **Olivier Giraud** on Saturday. Both in-stores start at 5pm. Cheapo locks up for good Christmas Eve.

Christmas Riffs & Rocking Stuffers

Need a last-minute gift for the local music fan in your life? We've got you:

► Expert, eclectic rockers the **Invincible Czars** have turned five Christmas classics into zany prog jams. Highlights include the orgy of solos on "Mele Kalikimaka" and their epic, powerhouse take on **Irving Berlin's** holiday classic "White Christmas." Somehow *Ornaments* remains both family friendly and trippy as hell.

► If supporting a health care provider that serves musicians isn't compelling enough, buy the new **Holiday HAAM Jam Vol. 2** for **Guy Forsyth's** simple and superb version of "Christmas in the Trenches." The **John McCutcheon**-penned tune describes the night German and British soldiers put down their weapons and celebrated the holiday together. The **White Ghost Shivers'** innuendo-laced offering about **Santa's** big ol' sac(k) provides giggly counterpoint.

► The **Eastern Sea's** seasonal LP, *First Christmas*, stands as a quirky-yet-sincere display of their patented prose pop sound. While peppered with holiday standards, **Matt Hines'** originals properly encapsulate the mix of feelings the holidays evoke.

► Local photographer **Mathew Sturtevant's** stunningly intimate portraits of musicmakers like **Roky Erickson**, **Billy Gibbons**, **Billy Joe Shaver**, and **Junior Brown**, with "Why I Love Austin" mini-essays accompanying each one, make *The Sound of Austin* a coffee-table book you can get lost in. Sturtevant hopes it will remind Austinites what a wealth of talent we're surrounded by. "The first six weeks the book was out, we sold it in 11 countries," reports Sturtevant. "These artists are recognized all around the world, and here in Austin you can see them for \$7 on a Wednesday night."

► The **Good Music Club**, a monthly live music showcase that produces superior quality tapings of local bands, has collected 14 of the show's best performances on disc. The comp provides a great sample of local bands with live chops. Highlights include tracks by **Frank Smith**, the **Sour Notes**, **Bobby Jealousy**, and **Quiet Company**.

► The **Candlelight Carols**, produced by drummer extraordinaire **John Bush**, has a wealth of mostly original Christmas tunes, and features appearances by **Edie Brickell** and **John Popper**, who joins **Patrice Pike** for "New Year's Resolution." Matchless country guitarist **Redd Volkaert** sups up **Merle Haggard's** hard times ballad "If We Make It Through December." The compilation's beneficiary, **Candlelight Ranch**, helps special needs kids by exposing them to nature.



Roky Erickson portraits from *The Sound of Austin*



Grinding at the End of the World

"Everyone's throwing around the **Mayan calendar** prophecy," noted guitarist **Trey Ramirez**. "So we asked ourselves, 'If it really was the end of the world, how would we want to go out?' We decided we'd want to do it with all our friends." Friday's Party at the End of the World at **Red 7** will feature reunions from four Austin bands that influenced each other in the early and mid-2000s. Post-hardcore rockers **Recover**, whose drummer **Jimmy Vela** now plays in the **Sword**, headline after politically charged metalcore quintet and initial Ramirez vehicle **At All Cost** performs its first show in three years. Hardcore grinders **Employer**, **Employee** also reunite, as do Ramirez's more recent metal thrashers **Pack of Wolves**, who will be playing as a six-member colossus. Also on the bill are **Krum Bums**, **Visitors**, **Spiritual Wives**, and **Assacre**. "This lineup represents a historic era in Austin music," says Ramirez, who also plays in **Spiritual Wives**. "I can't think of a better way to ring in the end of the year ... or the world."

Celebration Day

Dinosaur DVDs with a smattering of punk, porn, and R&B

Alongside CDs, their audio-visual counterpart DVDs continue their digitized dead man's march to the dustbin of technological media obsolescence. One day soon, you'll only be able to stream and download music documents rather than store their unfashionably odd boxes. Improvement? Not when Led Zeppelin releases a CD/DVD minibox for the ages ...

— Raoul Hernandez

LCD Soundsystem *Shut Up and Play the Hits* (Pulse)

Four hours, three encores, an endless slew of guests, and one dress code — black and white and nothing in between. I was in attendance at LCD Soundsystem's Madison Square Garden curtain call in April 2011 and can say with some certainty that the only thing I wanted by the time James Murphy began "New York, I Love You but You're Bringing Me Down" was two slices of pizza and a warm bed. Imbibing that whole marathon from the comfort of my couch played out a whole lot more sane. Directed by British newbies Dylan Southern and Will Lovelace, the 108-minute documentary weaves between concert footage, snippets of James Murphy's excellent *Guardian* interview with Chuck Klosterman, and vignettes from the first day of the artist's post-LCD life ("I really like making coffee," he tells Klosterman), with the filmmakers making every effort to highlight the New Yorker's self-awareness and keen attention to detail. Discs two and three rehash the night's mayhem in its entirety. If you're trying to do both in one night, you'll likely need to make a cup yourself. Go on and "Dance Yrself Clean."

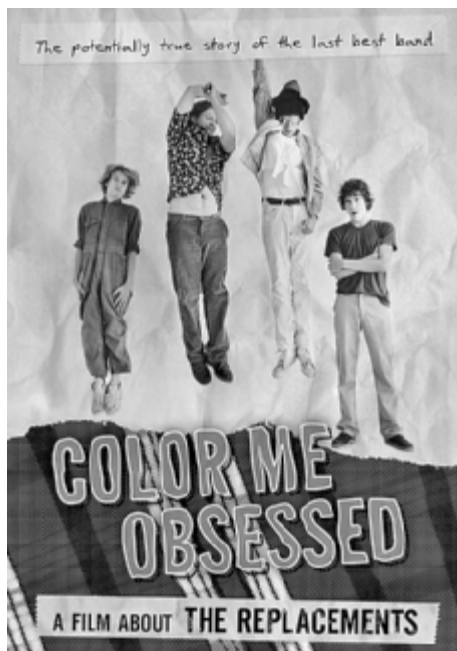
— Chase Hoffberger

Mudhoney *Live in Berlin 1988* (IK7/Sub Pop)

Here comes sickness. Three years before Nirvana broke *Nevermind* in 1991, Mudhoney shipped out to the annual Berlin Independence Days Festival, a bellwether for the burgeoning scene in the Pacific Northwest. While only one midrange camera captured the 40-minute industry showcase, the audio belongs in Seattle's Experience Music Project Museum (a bootleg of the set comes with the 2008 reissue of *Superfuzz Bigmuff*), and the footage captures history. Singer/guitarist Mark Arm looks like the lost poster child of grunge: stumbling drunk, wearing tattered jeans and a white T-shirt branded with the Sub Pop logo on the back and "loser" in all caps. "Pull down your pants if you like us," he tells

the rather confused crowd before the Washington Staters rip through then-unreleased debut EP *Superfuzz Bigmuff* and a couple of early singles in all their feral delinquency. Brash opener "No One Has," ugly blues lament "Sweet Young Thing Ain't Sweet No More," and detonator "Touch Me I'm Sick" are all highlights, but guitar contortionist Steve Turner and Arm come fully unhinged for closer "In 'n' Out of Grace," throwing themselves around like crash-test dummies, a moment perfectly captured in the recent documentary *I'm Now: The Story of Mudhoney*. Arm ends up sprawled over the front stage monitor, arching his head back and humping the speaker as his guitar squalls in defiance. It's a belligerent, perfect moment — the shape of punk to come.

— Austin Powell



The Replacements *Color Me Obsessed: A Film About the Replacements (What Were We Thinking)*

Can a documentary on a band be successful if it doesn't include anyone from the group or any of the band's music? Maybe I'm the same geek for the Replacements as the multitude of voices and talking heads director Gorman Bechard gathers to talk about a favorite subject, but *Color Me Obsessed* had me almost always grinning, once near tears, and close to shouting at the screen with his chronological



Led Zeppelin *Celebration Day* (Atlantic)

"DUN DUN." You already know what's happening. "DUN DUN." A cavalcade of snares and cymbals ruptures London's O2 Arena. Jason Bonham looks fresh, clean, and angry at his drum kit. Page, Plant, and Jones circle each other in sharp angles, heaving a few oh-shit breaths. Thousands of December 2007 showgoers erupt, at which point my father peeks his head into the TV room. "Good Times Bad Times." In a stunning 2-CD/2-DVD memorial for Led Zeppelin's late benefactor at Atlantic Records, Ahmet Ertegun, *Celebration Day* captures the original UK quartet's first proper reunion following the death of drummer John Bonham in 1980. Halfhearted regroupings for Live Aid in 1985 and at an Atlantic anniversary three years later now get relegated to footnotes in light of *Celebration Day*. While 1973 concert film

The Song Remains the Same scaled mountains pumped full of idolatry and iconography — massive egos scorching Madison Square Garden — today fans remember it only for the laughter Robert Plant invited. Instead, 2004's astounding *Led Zeppelin DVD* seemed like the most logical end, its six hours one of the most significant content-dumps in pop history, the cup running over onto even the DVD menus. Another contemporary Swan Song (the group's label) in *Celebration Day*? More like another entry in the best catalog since the other immortal English big bang, the Beatles. *Celebration Day* proves that Led Zeppelin remains preposterously, inconceivably awesome. Not to mention virtuosic, as in a white-haired Jimmy Page rolling up his sleeves and squeezing every last arid drop out of the "Nobody's Fault but Mine" solo on his Gibson. Mysterious, like the thin layer of fog flirting with Robert Plant's ankles as he whines through "No Quarter." Huge, like the gong behind scion Jason Bonham's drum stool. Psychedelic as the acid splashes of "Dazed and Confused." And even sheepish in performing "Stairway to Heaven." They rise up like Charles Dickens' Ghost of Christmas Past, play rock & roll, and disappear again. The second DVD contains a single, static capture of the band's rehearsal, shot from a blurry, occasionally washed-out distance. It's a needless accessory to one of the most singular performances in history, but the accompanying audio soundtrack matches 2003's triple live album *How the West Was Won*. Ultimately, *Celebration Day* should be remembered as a poetic moment. For one night, three men (and one son) revisited Valhalla, where Jimmy Page's bow was waiting for him and Robert Plant saved his honeyed screech for the closer. It's been a long time since I rock and rolled, but this is how I want to remember The End.

— Luke Winkie

oral history of the seminal Minneapolis four-piece (1979-1991). Will a newcomer to the band feel the same way about meeting Tim, the unfortunate SOB the band supposedly named an album after? Or the person who recorded the cops breaking up a party, the audio of which is found at the beginning of "Kids Don't Follow"? What's undeniable: Everyone involved possesses an amazing amount of passion for the band. Voices/heads include musicians from Hüsker Dü, Babes in Toyland, the Hold Steady, and the Goo Goo Dolls; writers Robert Christgau, Greg Kot, and Jim DeRogatis; as well as actors George Wendt, Tom Arnold, and many others. A deluxe version has a second DVD with deleted scenes, extra commentary, and trailers, but Bechard's film remains more than satisfying by itself.

— Jim Caligiuri

Mott the Hoople *The Ballad of Mott the Hoople* (Start Productions)

Mott the Hoople was a force of rock & roll without direction, and while this documentary arrives loaded with flaws, it threads a narrative through the British band's numerous twists



and turns in the early Seventies. Even if *The Ballad of...* never allows its footage to speak for itself, what's revealed is a band propelled by the outrageousness of the stage. Focusing heavily on interviews with the core members — Ian Hunter, Mick Ralphs, Verden Allen, Pete Watts, Dale Buffin Griffin, and late addition Ariel Bender — there's little nostalgia for or even anecdotal recounting of the chaos that surrounded the band, to the point that they look back on the experience as trying. The crazed influence of producer Guy Stevens gets heavy due, from wrangling the group together in 1968 to the stylistic schizophrenia of its first four albums, but neither David Bowie (responsible for Mott's successful turn to glam) nor many of the band's contemporaries make appearances to provide context or praise. Informative and rewarding for fans, the documentary ultimately provides little for Mott the Hoople's legacy.

— Doug Freeman

Jerry Jeff Walker
Live from Dixie's Bar & Bus Stop
(May 6)

If you lived in mid-Eighties Austin, you might recall a cable TV show called *Dixie's Bar and Bus Stop*. Taped at a studio on East Fifth Street, its more than 70 episodes featured country/roots artists from Texas. Jerry Jeff Walker's set, the first in what's promised as a series of *Dixie* releases, preserves an interesting historical document. Available as either DVD or CD, the former contains a healthy 26 songs of where the gypsy raconteur was at the time. Visually, it's no *Austin City Limits*, which one supposes was the point, but the lack of professional production values underscores the handheld cameras and painfully obvious edits between songs. Walker works up a healthy sweat over the course of more than 90 minutes, but no one mops his brow through the set of lovable acoustic performances. Additionally, two tunes are mislabeled: "Wingin' It Home to Texas" is actually "David and Me," and the set closer isn't "Django's Lullaby," but "My Old Man." Worth a look and listen for JJW fans of all ages, but the lack of attention to detail, and what seems to be a hastily produced project, might rightfully scare some away.

— Jim Caligiuri

Etta James
Live at Montreux 1993 (Eagle Rock)

Don't be fooled by the title. This single DVD goes well beyond 1993, serving as a kind of career retrospective for the late R&B singer, whose life was as tough as her music. Etta James reaped most of her hits by the Sixties, evidenced in set lists drawing from her early years. This CD/DVD combo keeps signature tunes "I'd Rather Go Blind," "Tell Mama," and "At Last" sprinkled throughout the live clips from 1993, but there's also footage from 1975, '77, '78, and '88 that tells the story of James, who battled drug addiction (evident in early footage) and weight issues that contributed to her death in January. Her subtle, gritty voice demonstrates those marked changes over the years. The '93 tunes shimmer with the patina of professionalism James had attained, but her performance of "I'd Rather Go Blind" almost 20 years earlier unfolds as superior to the more practiced later version. James was bigger than life, her decades of singing marvelously documented here. — Margaret Moser



Mutantes: Punk, Porn, Feminism
(Solaris Distribution)

The opening credits haven't fully dimmed when Virginie Despentes' latest documentary flashes its first S&M clip. The scene unfolds low-lit, jarring, and without introduction or explanation, and it's indicative of the DVD as a whole. *Mutantes: Punk, Porn, Feminism* then follows the rise of pro-sex feminism through the Eighties and Nineties with a dozen interviews of scene pioneers who sought to debunk the implied nature of the porn industry. Peppered in are adult film clips that paint an unapologetic picture. It's an illuminating thesis on power and the role of women in pornography, often written off by classic feminism as inherently counter to the movement. The documentary assumes prior knowledge — names such as Annie Sprinkle and Betty Vernon don't necessarily have recognition as equality leaders — while the punk component squeezes into the filmmakers following around queer band Tribe 8. To the initiated, it's an impressive roundup of academics and professionals, even if Despentes makes no effort to make *Mutantes* artful or subtle in the slightest. Then again, its raw, unfiltered nature drives the point home, so to speak. — Abby Johnston

continued on p.48



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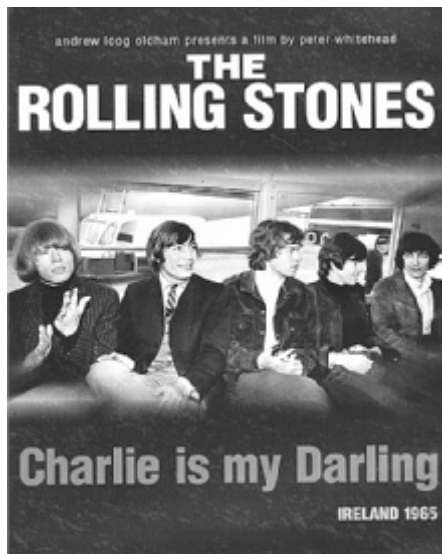
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The Rolling Stones

Charlie Is My Darling (ABKCO)

The moment remains unwittingly staged, a look through the cracked glass so darkly it's almost breathtaking. Brian Jones, debonair and self-important as the bandleader, stares at the camera, declaring: "The future as a Rolling Stone is very uncertain." Uncertain, of course, for Jones, who drowned in A.A. Milne's swimming pool in 1969, but at the time of this freeze-frame in Ireland 1965, the future was a long way off. The Rolling Stones of that year are well on their way to superstardom, but first they have to pay their dues, including doing battle with rivals the Beatles. Director Peter Whitehead, drafted to document the Stones in order to compete with the Fab Four on film, gets thrown into their tour entourage, and though his 1966 film had a brief theatrical release, only with this DVD restoration does music history find the opportunity to consider *Charlie Is My Darling* as the first rockumentary. Not only is the Dublin riot footage extraordinary, the interviews captured as Whitehead rolls cameras on the young Stones reveal young men as stoked as they are perplexed by their obvious growing success. In memorable moments, Whitehead lingers on the laconic Charlie Watts as he ruminates and a sweet-faced fan professes her affection for the drummer. *Charlie Is My Darling* comes in a hefty, book-weight box the size of a vinyl EP, which it contains in addition to a DVD and Blu-ray disc of the film. Goodies include an enlarged limited edition film cell, a framable poster for the '65 Belfast performance in eye-popping neon, and the liner notes hardbound and oversized with (finally!) easy-to-read credits. Two CDs include the soundtrack, with its quirky renditions of Stones hits and originals, and a *Live in England '65* disc that's also included on vinyl and reminiscent of the following year's *Got Live If You Want It*. The Stones are rolling here, delivering the set in fireballs like



the R&B revues they so admired – Jagger as the little red rooster incarnate in the years before he becomes a man of wealth and taste. It's peer-to-peer communication at its zenith, the Stones as twentysomethings playing with fire to their own age group. Director Whitehead captures the crowd's riotous response to their music at Dublin's Adelphi Theatre as the singer falls on his checkered-pants knees and gives a jaunty bow at the end of "Time Is on My Side." Bo Diddley's "I'm All Right" then swings into its jungle groove as Jagger wields maracas like a monkey king, inciting fans with the raw power of rock & roll until they spill forth over the footlights and onto the stage. They're grabbing the mics and mobbing Keith, wrestling Mick, tackling Brian, rushing Bill Wyman, and banging Charlie Watts' drums as they dance madly. And it's not the girls! It's mostly boys, their ancient Irish warrior blood up and marching: charging hormone-infused masses who just want to touch the rock & roll Pandoras unleashing those joyous inner demons. Ladies and gentlemen, the Rolling Stones. – Margaret Moser

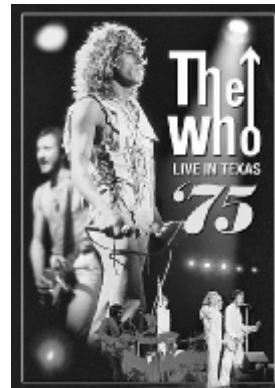
The Who

Live in Texas '75 (Eagle Rock)

Thin Lizzy

Live at the National Stadium Dublin (Universal UK)

By mid-decade, the Seventies had broken free of its damaged and idealistic predecessor to pound out peak work by groups born of the Sixties – Led Zeppelin's *Physical Graffiti* and *The Who by Numbers*, to name but a pair of 1975 landmarks by foundational powerhouses. The latter's seventh album, *The Who by Numbers* still suffers the relative misfortune of following the UK quartet's Himalayan summit: *Tommy* (1969), *Who's Next* (1971), and *Quadrophenia* (1973). At another Summit, in Houston, a venue whose audio-visual setup must have been state-of-the art judging from the CD/DVD bonuses it's supplied in the last decade, *The Who by Numbers* only debuts three tracks in the riveting two-hour set, but such footage – washed-out, yet thankfully dinosaur in its nonextant quick cutting – remains rarest of the rare. The album's amped-up folk-pop single, "Squeeze Box," glistens in the three spot, but it's a thrilling back-to-back of two of the LP's best tracks – principal songwriter Pete Townshend's rambling alcoholic confession (about "the night I gave up drinking"), "However Much I Booze," complete with lyrics on a music stand and Keith Moon's rolling drum thunder, plus the gorgeous "Dreaming From the Waist," a symphony of progressive melody – that singles out *Live in Texas '75*. When the band jams the outro to "Dreaming," bassist John



Entwistle watching Townshend for cues while playing lead as his electric cohort chops power chords, Moon tumults into orbit, and Roger Daltrey croons another immaculate lyric, the classically minded rock & roll magnificence of *Quadrophenia* continues. In fact, the Who's only warmed up by the time a casually epic summa-

tion of *Quadrophenia* arrives with "Drowned" a half-hour in, and soon a 30-minute *Tommy* extract writhes and cries like the day it was born. 1975 also birthed London fourpiece Thin Lizzy's best lineup, Dubliners Philip Lynott and drummer Brian Downey paired with dual lead guitarists Brian Robertson and Scott Gorham. That year's fifth Lizzy attack, *Fighting*, provides most of the set list, though it's the frontman (with his halo Afro still only at three-quarters bloom) getting soulful on "For Those Who Love to Live" that almost thieves the gig. "Suicide" later anchors Lizzy breakthrough *Live and Dangerous*, but what puts this out-of-nowhere DVD into must-have band catalog territory is its filling out the almost hour long Irish set with another hour of Emerald Isle TV in a multipart band documentary centered around an interview with Lynott. Further bonuses include a tech doc from Lizzy's last tour, preserved here on sulfurous goodbye ballad "The Sun Goes Down," and three video clips, including a 1981 reunion of the original Irish trio on first hit "Whiskey in the Jar," with a hold-your-breath live vocal by Lynott. God bless. – Raoul Hernandez

The Beach Boys

Doin' It Again (UME)

In an uncertain world, it's comforting to know Mike Love continues ruining things for everybody. After the surviving Beach Boys reunited to reverse decades of embarrassing returns with this summer's *That's Why God Made the Radio* and a 50th anniversary tour, Love resumed touring this fall alongside Bruce Johnston and the state fair permutation of the band. Though he may not have actually fired Brian Wilson, Al Jardine, and David Marks, Love had no problem allowing the subsequent concerts to be promoted as if they were still part of the reunion tour. *Doin' It Again* was completed prior to the Wilson/Love split, but it can't help being seen through that not-so-rose-colored lens. The documentary's paltry 55-minute length reinforces the corner-cutting veneer, while only six full songs from the reunion tour are included. The historical hook is rare black-and-white film of the "Good Vibrations" sessions, but most of the footage has been out for years. Interviews boast occasional revelations amid the old hash, like Marks providing insight into matriarch Audree Wilson's contribution to the Beach Boys and Johnston retelling a funny story about the late Dennis Wilson's adventures in a gold mine. Ultimately, though, you're left wanting more of everything. – Greg Beets



The Beatles

Magical Mystery Tour (Apple/EMI)

Unlike theatrical releases *A Hard Day's Night* and *Help!*, *Magical Mystery Tour* could originally be seen only on the BBC. Loosely directed by Paul McCartney, it's a reflection of the times – 1967's Summer of Love – so psychedelic touches abound, and trying to make sense of "I Am the Walrus" and "Strawberry Fields Forever" still comes off as fruitless. The improvised story makes little sense, and the thrill of seeing the Liverpudlian foursome onscreen has worn off. Nevertheless, the music remains among the Beatles' most memorable and progressive, and the remastered DVD sounds better than ever. The Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band singing "Death Cab for Cutie" near film's end comes off as freakishly memorable. The extras include a Traffic video for "Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush" that was commissioned for the film but not used, as well as new edits with unseen footage of "Hello Goodbye," "The Fool on the Hill," "Blue Jay Way," and "Your Mother Should Know." New interviews with Paul and Ringo add a bit of historical insight, and, while as a film and an album *Magical Mystery Tour* maintains both fans and detractors, this release will likely satisfy the former without quieting the latter. – Jim Caligiuri

NEW OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepherd



Plastic surgeons in Turkey and France told CNN in November that mustache implants have suddenly surged in popularity as Middle Eastern men use their increased lip bushiness to convey power and prestige. Surgeons extract follicles from hairier parts of the body in procedures that cost the equivalent of around \$7,000 and show full results in about six months. An anthropology professor told CNN that, by tradition in Arab countries, a man of honor would “swear on [his] mustache,” use mustaches as collateral for loans, shave off a vanquished foe’s mustache as a reward, and gravely insult enemies with “Curse be upon your mustache!”

LATEST RELIGIOUS MESSAGES

At the religious festival of Pon, thousands of Muslims travel to Gunung Kemukus, on Indonesia’s main island of Java, to have the required sexual intercourse with a stranger. The experience, which supposedly brings good fortune, has become heavily commercialized, but nevertheless, about half the participants are “pure,” in that no money changes hands. More than a quick tryst is involved, according to an October Global Mail dispatch. The pilgrims must first pray, then bathe themselves, then select their proper stranger, then bathe themselves afterward (carefully saving the water for later re-use), and finally return seven times at 35-day intervals to refresh their ritual.

According to testimony in Perth, Australia, in November, one retired priest, Thomas Byrne, 80, bit off the ear of another, Thomas Smith, 81, in a brawl over a parking space. Father Byrne and Father Smith are residents of the same retirement home in the Perth suburb of Dianella.

For centuries, some residents of India’s Madhya Pradesh state have allowed themselves to be trampled by garishly dressed animals in periodic attempts to have their prayers answered. The November “Ekadashi” (the 11th day of certain months of the Hindu calendar) this year began with prayers, followed by the liquoring up of the animals (cows in Ujjain and buffaloes in Bhopal, for example) to “remove their inhibitions,” according to a WebIndia123.com report. Even so, according to local press reports, hardly anyone ever gets hurt.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Things People Believe: 1) Personalities are heavily influenced by blood types, according to the Japanese. People with Type A blood are thought to be “sensitive perfectionists and good team players, but over-anxious,” according to a November BBC News dispatch, while O’s are “curious and generous but stubborn.” Some industries market blood-type-specific products ranging from soft drinks to condoms. 2) Names given by parents heavily influence a person’s fortunes in life, according to many Thais, but that means relief from misery is just an official name-change away, according to a November *Wall Street Journal* dispatch from Bangkok. Services-for-fee are available to help find prosperous names, with one smartphone application suggesting five for the equivalent of about \$10.

Saudis Remain Freedom-Challenged: 1) In September, officials in Jeddah detained 908 female Nigerian visitors who were not accompanied by appropriate male guardians as required for all females in the kingdom under age 45. (Women older than that are allowed merely to carry notarized permission slips from husbands, sons, or brothers.) That the Nigerians were in the country only to make the required Muslim Hajj pilgrimage did not deter Saudi authorities. 2) Saudi immigration officials in November began a text-messaging service to notify husbands if their wives attempt to leave the country (at an airport or across a border) without the official “yellow sheet” authorizing her departure.

Update: Japanese and Chinese traditions absolutely reject the idea of reusing wooden chopsticks, and for many years Japan’s (and then, China’s) forests easily met chopstick demand. But Japan requires 23 billion pairs a year, and China 63 billion, which the wood industry (even China’s) eventually could not provide. In 2011, Korean-born Jae Lee built a factory in Americus, Ga., near forests of poplar and sweet gum trees that proved the ideal combination of softness and hardness for the sticks. In 2011 and early 2012, he supplied Japanese, Chinese, and Koreans with 20 million pairs of “Made in USA” chopsticks every week. (In June, Georgia Chopsticks LLC was inexplicably closed by court order, even though its sales had remained brisk.)

QUESTIONABLE JUDGMENTS

Police were seeking a 6-foot-3 man concerning an attempted child-abduction in November after a father intervened as the man led the father’s 2-year-old daughter toward an exit of the Fashion Square mall in Charlottesville, Va. The father alerted Fashion Square’s security, and the cops took the man into “custody,” which turned out to mean escorting him off the property and warning him not to return (catch and release?).

Questionable Product Launches: 1) The Demeter Fragrance Library (maker of such “classic” scents as “Dirt,” “Crayon,” and “Laundromat”) has added to its line with “Sushi” cologne, reported the website FoodBeast.com in November. Fortunately, the scent is not that of raw fish, but “cooked sticky rice,” seaweed, ginger, and lemon essences. 2) A company called Beverly Hills Caviar recently installed three vending machines in the Los Angeles area that sell nothing but varieties of caviar (ranging from pink mother of pearl (\$4) to Imperial River Beluga (\$500 an ounce).

PERSPECTIVE

“In beautiful La Jolla Cove,” wrote *The New York Times* in November, describing the cliffside-vista community near San Diego, “art galleries and coffee shops meet a stretch of unspoiled cliffs and Pacific Ocean” – unspoiled, that is, until recently, when seagulls took over. Now, because of California’s showcase environmental regulations, use of the cove has been restricted, and cleaning the bird droppings from the land is subject to a permit-application process that might take two years. Some residents profess not to mind (“Smells just like the ocean,” said one, “but maybe a little ‘heightened’”) while others are appalled (“As soon as we pulled up, it was like, this is awful”). Even though the smell grows “more acrid by the day,” according to the *Times*, residents’ and visitors’ only short-term hope is for cleansing by the traditional winter rains (which, fortunately, do not require California permits).

Visit Chuck Shepherd daily at
www.newssoftheweird.blogspot.com
(or www.newssoftheweird.com).

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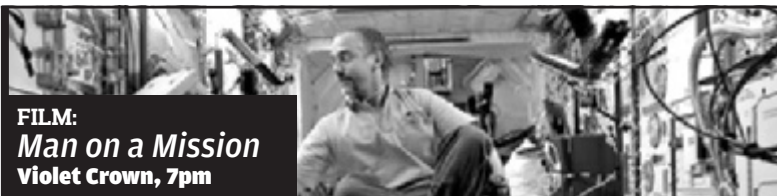
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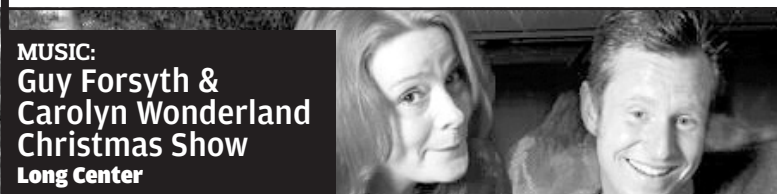
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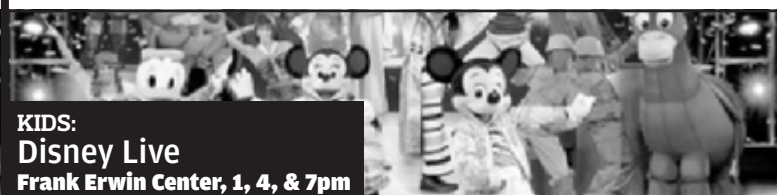
FILM:
Man on a Mission
Violet Crown, 7pm



MUSIC:
Guy Forsyth &
Carolyn Wonderland
Christmas Show
Long Center



DANCE:
The Nutcracker
Long Center, 2pm



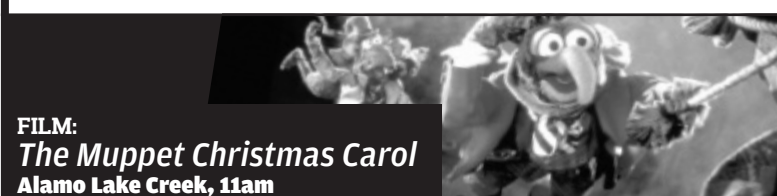
KIDS:
Disney Live
Frank Erwin Center, 1, 4, & 7pm



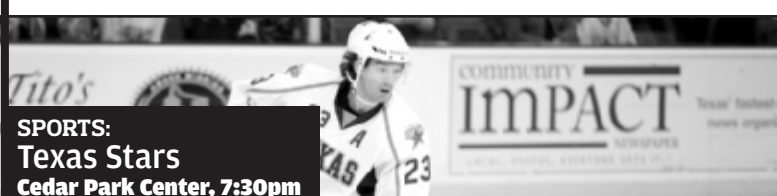
FILM:
Elf Quote-Along
Alamo Ritz, 7pm



MUSIC:
Dale Watson
Christmas Show
Continental Club, 10pm



FILM:
The Muppet Christmas Carol
Alamo Lake Creek, 11am



SPORTS:
Texas Stars
Cedar Park Center, 7:30pm

THURSDAY
20

FILM: **Holiday Movie Marathon** University Hills Library, 11am-8pm
GAY PLACE: **AGLCC Holiday Party** Sheraton Hotel, 5:45-9pm
COMMUNITY: **Trail of Lights** Zilker Park, 6-10pm
COMEDY: **Mario DiGiorgio** Cap City Comedy Club, 8pm
LITERA: **Bedpost Confessions** ND at 501 Studios, 8pm
CLASSICAL MUSIC: **One Ounce Opera's Highfalutin Holiday** Red 7, 8pm

FRIDAY
21

FILM: **A Christmas Story** Alamo Ritz, 12:15pm
MEAL TIMES: **End of the World Party** Banger's Sausage House & Beer Garden, 5pm-12mid
FILM: **Die Hard** Austin Studios, 7pm
GAY PLACE: **Mayan Apocalypse** Cherrywood Coffeehouse, 7pm
COMMUNITY: **Christmas Ghost Stories** Museum of the Weird, 8pm
MUSIC: **Uranium Savages** Poodie's Hilltop Roadhouse, 10:30pm

SATURDAY
22

COMMUNITY: **Yule Bazaar** The Vortex, noon-5pm
FILM: **White Christmas** Alamo Ritz, 1pm
FILM: **The Nightmare Before Christmas** Austin Studios, 6pm
SPORTS: **Austin Toros** Cedar Park Center, 7:30pm
MUSIC: **Suzanna Choffel** Strange Brew Lounge Side
MUSIC: **Golden Boys, Flesh Lights** Beerland

SUNDAY
23

HOLIDAY BAZAARS: **Armadillo Christmas Bazaar** Palmer Events Center, 11am-11pm
MUSIC: **Preservation Hall Jazz Band** One World Theater, 6 & 8:30pm
FILM: **Nothing Lasts Forever** Alamo Ritz, 7pm
FILM: **Kill Bill: Vol. 1** Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm

MONDAY
24

KIDS: **Winter Break Camp** Austin Nature & Science Center, 8am-5pm
HOLIDAY BAZAARS: **Blue Genie Art Bazaar** Marchesa Hall, 10am-10pm
MUSIC: **Bill Kirchen & Friends** Palmer Events Center, 8pm

TUESDAY
25

MUSIC: **Miss Lavelle White's Christmas Show** Saxon Pub, 8pm
GAY PLACE: **Tasty Tuesday LGBT** MoJoe Room Bar & Grill, 9pm
FILM: **Silent Night, Deadly Night: Part 2** Alamo Ritz, 10:30pm

WEDNESDAY
26

FILM: **First Blood** Alamo Ritz, 7pm
MUSIC: **Saint James Society** Sahara Lounge

THURSDAY
27

THEATRE: **The Mutt-Cracker** The Vortex, 5:30 & 7pm
FILM: **The Fugitive** Alamo South Lamar, 7pm
COMEDY: **Matt Bearden** Cap City Comedy Club, 8pm
MUSIC: **Antone's Alumni Winter Ball** Antone's
MUSIC: **Graham Wilkinson** Frank





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RIGHT: Paul Pfeiffer, *Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse* (07), 2002, digital duraflex print, 48 x 60 in., Collection Glenn and Amanda Fuhrman, New York, Courtesy The FLAG Art Foundation, ©Paul Pfeiffer. Courtesy Paula Cooper Gallery, New York

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THEATRE

OPENING

COMING HOME FOR CHRISTMAS Here's a concert of holiday standards and rousing gospel songs, cabaret-style, with Courtney Sanchez and Matt Wilson and their guests. *Fri.-Sat., Dec. 21-22, 7pm, TexARTS' Morris Theatre, 2300 Lohmans Spur #160. 852-9079 x101. \$30-45. www.tex-arts.org.*

BAH, HUMBUG! Yes, it's J. Damian Gillen's one-man Scrooge show, with numerous costume changes, special effects, and traditional Celtic Christmas tunes. The man's touring the performance, doing 30 shows in 30 days across the state, and this weekend he's at Austin's DAC. *Fri.-Sat., Dec. 21-22, 7pm. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 800/838-3006. \$15 (\$12, in advance; \$6, kids). www.bahhumbug.info.*

★ **TRAPPED IN THE CLOSET: LIVE!** If *Trapped in the Closet* is the Odyssey of our time, then R. Kelly is Homer. [Note: Not Homer Simpson, fool. We mean – oh, never mind.] Anyway, enjoy this epic work as it was meant to be heard – orally. Austin's own madcap genius Brently Heilbron performs the original 12 chapters solo, while brandishing a ukulele and other assorted instruments. *Fri., Dec. 21, 8pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$10. www.salvagevanguard.org.*

CLOSING

OVER THE RIVER AND THROUGH THE WOODS See what happens to Nick from New Jersey when “food, fidelity, and family reign supreme,” in this holiday comedy by Joe DiPietro, directed by Andy Berkovsky for City Theatre. *Through Dec. 23. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5:30pm. City Theatre, 3823-D Airport, 524-2870. \$15-25 (\$10, Thursdays; other discounts available). www.citytheatreaustin.org.*

THE SANTALAND DIARIES Martin Burke rules the stage as the wisecracking Crumpet in this David Sedaris classic – and the musical accompaniment is a fine show in itself. *Through Dec. 23. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Extra shows: Sat., Dec. 22, 4pm; Sun., Dec. 23, 7pm. Zach Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. \$40-45. www.zachtheatre.org.*

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE: LIVE RADIO SHOW Up Round Rock way, Penfold Theatre's got this Capra classic, adapted by Joe Landry, done up as a live, old-time radio drama. You know some angel's gonna get his



wings with Nathan Jerkins directing, and the cast is – oh, hey: Chris Gibson's among them! Which bodes nothing but well. *Through Dec. 23. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 6pm. Rice's Crossing Store, 3300 East Palm Valley, Round Rock. \$20 (\$18, students, seniors). www.penfoldtheatre.org.*

THE ATTIC SPACE This is a world premiere, written and directed by Nigel O'Hearn. Babs George and Ev Lunning Jr. star in this *final show ever* for the intrepid Palindrome Theatre. See “Endgame,” p.28, for more. *Through Dec. 22. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 736-5191. \$10 (pay what you can, Wednesday). www.palindrometheatre.com.*

ONGOING

THE GAME'S AFOOT! Ken Ludwig's comical murder-mystery is subtitled *Holmes for the Holidays*, and of course you're familiar with that consulting detective. Here's an actor (Jason Newman) playing an actor (William Gillette) who's playing Holmes and who's shot onstage in mid-role. Things get even more complicated (and dangerous) at a weekend revel after the attempted murder, and – well, thereby hangs a tale. Directed by Don Toner for Austin Playhouse. *Through Jan. 13. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5pm. Highland Mall, 6001 Airport. 476-0084. \$15-37 (student discounts available). www.austinplayhouse.com.*

MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET: THE MUSICAL It's a song-filled version of the Christmas classic – directed by Ron Watson, perfect for warming the old heart-

★ **THE MUTT-CRACKER (SWEET!)** The Vortex and **Circus Chickendog** team up to present this trained-animal homage to Tchaikovsky's classic for the holidays. It's family-friendly, all right, but it's not just for the kiddies: These are antics that even grown-ups will be delighted by, as the talented Darren Peterson goes all out with juggling, unicycling, giant bubbles, rope tricks, and puppets – as abetted by his circus dogs and a performing macaw. *Thu.-Sun., Dec. 27-30, 5:30 & 7pm; Thu.-Fri., Jan. 3-4, 7pm; Sat., Jan. 5, 5:30 & 7pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. \$10-30 (\$5-15, kids). www.vortexrep.org.*

cockles up there in Georgetown. *Through Dec. 30. Fri.-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun., 2pm. Extra shows: Wed.-Thu., Dec. 26-27, 7:30pm. Georgetown Palace Theatre, 810 S. Austin Ave., Georgetown, 512/869-7469. \$10-24. www.georgetownpalace.com.*

WHITE CHRISTMAS Irving Berlin's song-filled holiday classic comes to warm your heart and delight your ears, as choreographed and directed by Nick Demos, with musical direction by Allen Robertson, and starring Meredith McCall, Elizabeth Koepf, Matthew Redden, and Matt Gibson. *Through Dec. 30. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 3:30 & 8pm; Sun., 2:30 & 7pm. Zach Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. \$25-80. www.zachtheatre.org.*

THEATRE CALL BOARD

THE HIDDEN ROOM MYSTERY SHOW The fierce crew that brought us the Shakespearean *Rose Rage* saga is set to return to the boards with a new tale of feuding magicians in Depression-era NYC – but *that's* not until January. This is a one-night-only secret mystery vaudeville night-of-variety fundraiser, featuring the talents of Stephanie Delk, Djahari, Amara, Jack Darling, Toby Minor, Cami Alys, Shoulders, and more (and a sneak peek of the above-mentioned *Invisible, Inc.*). Jazz? Hot! Wear your nattiest Hoovertime duds and put the kibosh on all your cares and woes with some hooch and hi-test hoofin', bub. *Thu., Dec. 20, 8pm. York Rite Masonic Hall, 311 W. Seventh. \$10. www.hiddenroomtheatre.com.*

BODIES IN THE BASEMENT No need to call Nancy Grace, this is just a Sunday drag show. (Is there a queen who does a good Nancy Grace ...? Hmmm ...). *Sundays, 10:30 & 11:30pm. Basement, 422 Congress. www.facebook.com/BasementAustin.*

DJ PROTEGE'S FIRST AID Heal what ails ya and shake before serving. *Sundays, 5-10pm. Rain on 4th, 217 W. Fourth. Free. www.rainon4th.com.*

PROPOSE A TOAST(MASTER) Our local gay chamber of commerce is home to one of the country's fastest growing LGBT Toastmaster groups. *Second and fourth Mondays, 6pm. Rusty's, 405 E. Seventh, 482-9002. www.aglcc.org/toastmasters.*

TUEZGAYZ Still the fruit's number one place to hoof it Tuesday night. *Tuesdays, 10pm. Barbarella, 615 Red River. www.barbarellaustin.com, www.thegloria.tumblr.com.*

LISTEN TO OUTCAST Tweak your knobs to 91.7FM: It's *OutCast* with Stephen Rice and dorcas. Listen as they welcome and grill guests from every band of the rainbow. KOOP = queer, yo! *Tuesdays, 6-7pm. KOOP Radio 91.7FM. www.koop.org, www.outcastaustin.com.*

BOOKWOMAN BOOK GROUP This month: *State of Wonder* by Ann Patchett. *Fourth Tuesdays, 7pm. 5501 N. Lamar. Free. www.ebookwoman.com.*

LEZRIDE! Bike with the butchie babes and betties every Tuesday. Contact for route info. *Tuesdays, 7pm. Q Austin, 3408 West Ave. Free. www.lezrideatx.tumblr.com.*

TASTY TUESDAYS LGBT night at Lincoln Village's tastiest spot, with Lauren YellaStud and SDot SwaggaRipe, Gina Djgiiq Laughland, and bartender Alexis Wilder. *Tuesdays, 9pm. MoJoe Room Bar & Grill, 6406 N. I-35.*

END OF THE WORLD PARTY Well, of *course* the Vortex is hosting an apocalyptic shindig! This one's a fundraiser for the **Electronic Planet Ensemble** – the incredible live band that's like Hawkwind and Jean-Michel Jarre getting funky in some Düsseldorf dive bar – to fuel their *The Chimponauts and the Mechanical Phantom* project in May. Enjoy a video montage by Sergio R. Samayoa, music by KOOP's DJ AB, silent auction, tasty drinks, and “food of the Mayan Gods.” *Fri., Dec. 21, 9pm-1am. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. Donations accepted. www.vortexrep.org.*

COMEDY

IN THE CLUBS

CAP CITY COMEDY CLUB 8120 Research #100, 467-2333. www.capcitycomedy.com.

Matt Bearden Never too acerbic, seldom less than surgical in his skewering of life in these modern times, and a man who can *riff* endlessly: The Austin-based Bearden's one of those guys they call a comedian's comedian. Meaning: People in the biz might be laughing even harder than you will, and you'll be laughing your ass off. Recommended. *Dec. 27-29. Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm. \$9-19.*

Mario DiGiorgio The hilarious DiGiorgio – you've seen him on Comedy Central – is also the author of *A Cynic's Guide to a Rich and Full Life*. Our own *Chronicle* guide, also not skimping on the cynicism, suggests a wealth of laughs will be yours for attending this show. *Dec. 20-22. Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm. \$9-19.*

COLDTOWNE THEATER 4803-B Airport, 814-TOWN. www.coldtownetheater.com.

This Week in Coldness: They're right there on Airport Boulevard, where the goodness is funky and the funk is getting good. **Thursday Night Social Club** Sit back, quaff a few, and dig the improv. *Thu., 8:30pm. The Mission* A storytelling project. *Thu., 10pm. Bad Boys*, featuring improv by boys who are, well, other than *polite*, let's say. *Fri., 8:30pm. Live at ColdTowne* is stand-up comedy. *Fri., 10pm. Oscar Bait* The most likely award-winning movies are performed here before they're even released. *Sat., 8:30pm. The Frank*



KATE X MESSER

ODE TO AN –OKE

What had become a Hump Day tradition for crusty queers and crooners alike, **Lizzy Caroloke** is now past tense. **Lizzy Carol** was our tune-belting hostess whose effervescent Grace Slicks and Meat Loafs shall be sorely missed. Host bar **Bernadette's** is also not long for this Earth (her last night is Friday). Both of these cataclysms make us very sad, but we're sure that some fine gay-ish/queer-ish thing will rise to take their place, as is the Austin way. Meh. Let's not kid ourselves; there will never be another Lizzy Caroloke ... nor another Bernadette's. Long live Lizzy Caroloke. Love live Bernadette's.

ON OUR GAYDAR

AGLCC AWARDS & HOLIDAY PARTY It's the AGLCC's first ever awards ceremony and holiday jam with your humble vinyl spinners DJs Fine & Dandy with Kate & Andy (hey, we know them!). *Thu., Dec. 20, 5:45-9pm. Sheraton Austin at the Capitol, 701 E. 11th. \$35 for members, \$50 for future members. www.facebook.com/aglcc/events.*

QUEERDALINI YOGA Yup. It's Kundalini in a safe environment, for those who'd prefer to focus on chi rather than he or she. *Thursdays, 7-8:15pm. Soma Vida, 1210 Rosewood. Donations encouraged. queerdalini@gmail.com.*

DECEMBER BEDPOST CONFESSIONS One free Drambuie cocktail to the first 20 people in the door. *Thu., Dec. 20, 8-10:30pm. ND at 501 Studios, 501 N. I-35. \$10. www.ndvenue.com.*

MARGARET WRIGHT LIVE Spend some time with a real legend. Come see why the gays love cabaret jazz mama Margaret! *Fri., Dec. 21, 7-9pm. Rusty's, 405 E. Seventh. Free. www.rustysaustin.com.*

MAYAN APOCALYPSE The Bumping Uglies, our darling MC Sweet Tea, and Shardz ring it in or out, depending on whether or not those Mayans had their shit together. *Fri., Dec. 21, 7pm. Cherrywood Coffeehouse, 1400 E. 38½, 538-1991.*

THE VERY LAST NIGHT AT BERNADETTE'S EVER WTF are we going to do? OK, we promised ourselves that we would not wallow in holiday sadness and loss. Tonight is the night to dance balls out and to snap those bras on the ceiling one last time. Oh, Bernie, you gave it such a good run. Thank you, E. *Fri., Dec. 21, 8pm-12mid. Bernadette's, 2039 Airport. Free.*



Free. www.yellastud.com, www.mojeroom.com.

OCCUPY AUSTIN OCCUQUEERS Take up your rightful place in the political pantheon. *Every other Wednesday, 5-6:30pm. The Q, 3408 West, 420-8557.*

QUEER RIDE Search Team ProHomo on Facebook for up-to-date details on meeting spots and stops of this weekly ride. *Wednesdays, 7pm. Texas State Capitol, 1100 Congress. Free. www.facebook.com/AustinTPH.*

KARAOKE WITH KENNY Goes 'til close. *Wednesdays, 9:30pm. The Iron Bear, 121 W. Eighth. Free.*

SHITTY KITTY BIG BALL BINGO Ms. Rebecca Havemeyer scares the shit out of us. Boo. Drink cheap, win big. *Last Wednesdays of the month, 9:30pm. Rain on 4th, 217 W. Fourth.*

HOOK'D Dee Jay Munk-in-the-Mix spins this urban LGBT night in the Highland/Lincoln area. *Thursdays, 10pm. Club Ambitious, 6700 Middle Fiskville. Free before 11pm. chay@soe-ent.com, www.soe-ent.com.*

HO-RIZON

A NIGHT IN OLD AUSTIN Machete Western and the Dames of Deception ring it in for you! *Mon., Dec. 31, 9pm. Rusty's, 405 E. Seventh. Free. www.rustysaustin.com.*

A*FAB AND ASA NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY The Susan Arbuckle Band, special musical performer Tje Austin, and host Rich Segal headline this schmancy evening of doing good and having a blast with friends and fam all at the same time. Ring in the new year with the requisite champagne toast, and welcome 2013 with a yummy midnight breakfast buffet. *Mon, Dec. 31. Hyatt Regency Austin, 208 Barton Springs Rd., 477-1234. \$125 and up. www.afabaustin.com.*

Send gay bits to gayplace@austinchronicle.com. See the full array of *Gay Place* listings at austinchronicle.com/gay.

Mills and their smart, character-driven improv, with the sketchers of **Midnight Society**. *Sat., 10pm.*
Turn of the Century Paris: Speakeasy *Sat., 11pm.*
 And don't forget the rest o' the week: Stand-up with **The Jam** on Sundays, **Maggie Maye's** stand-up mic on Mondays, the ongoing **Stool Pigeon** on Tuesdays, and – yes, check the website!

ESTHER'S POOL 525 E. Sixth, 320-0553.

www.esthersfollies.com.

Esther's Follies How to Secede in Texas Without Really Trying The most popular sketch troupe in town brings holiday comedy that skewers the high-and-mighty with classic skits and riotous song parodies, featuring such gems as "Twelve Days of D.C. – What Obama Gave to Me," "The Gospel of Shopping," "UT: The Musical!" and many more. And there are **Ray Anderson's** amazing spectacles of magic, too – including his newest, **Eclipse!** Reservations recommended. *Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10pm. \$22-27.*

THE HIDEOUT THEATRE 617 Congress, 476-0473.
www.hideouttheatre.com.

It's Hideoutrageous! Here's your one-stop emporium of laughter and sweet coffee drinks Downtown, run like a brilliant clockwork made from Del Close's skull. The **Threefe** brings you three troupes in one night. *Thu., 8pm. \$5.* The **Free Fringe** Improv goes *experimental*, and who knows WTF these free-range humans will come up with? *Thu., 10pm. Free.* **Charles Dickens Unleashed** The hilarious improv subversion of orphans and fortunes and such returns for one night only! *Fri., 8pm. \$5.* The **Spectacle** presents 'Best of Austin' winners **Parallelogramophonograph**, with **Galactic**. *Fri., 10pm. \$12.* **Austin Secrets** Improv inspired by secrets submitted by Austinites. *Sat., 8pm. \$12.* **Maestro** It's improviser against improviser, a whole stage-full of them, battling for victory. *Sat., 10pm. \$12.*

INSTITUTION THEATER 3708 Woodbury, 895-9580.
www.theinstitutiontheater.com.

It's Institutional! The Human Santapede: Santapocalypse Aaaaaah! There's Waldo presents the second coming of this "most beautifully fucked-up Christmas spectacular ever seen." *Thu., Dec. 20, 8pm. \$5.* **This American Live** – with not Ira Glass, but **Michael Ferstenfeld** as your host – uncovers [redacted], as guests [redacted] the topic "Insufficient Data." *Fri., Dec. 21, 8pm. \$5.* **The Crapshoot** Roxy Castillo and Jon Mendoza host a show that combines the best and worst parts of stand-up and improv. *Fridays, 10pm. \$5.* **A Very Baxter & Bernard Christmas** Asaf Ronen and Tom Booker are the most unmarried gentlemen around, hosting guests Southpaw Jones, Circus Chickendog, the Applebottom Sisters, and more. *Sat., Dec. 22, 8pm. \$5.* **The Rubber Room** is an open improv jam, yo, so join in – if you dare. *Sun., Dec. 23, 8pm. Free.*

NEW MOVEMENT THEATER 616 Lavaca, 788-2669.
www.newmovementtheater.com.

The New Movement It's the laugh-packed *underground*, literally, rocking all subterranean there at the corner of Seventh and Lavaca. **Block Party** Comedy open mic. *Thu., 9:30pm.* **Christmas Show** with **Watermark** and **Checkbook**. *Fri., 9pm. \$5.* **Heckle Factory** Hecklers are welcome at this show! *Fri., 10:30pm. \$5.* And then TNM is **Closed for the Holidays**, until Dec. 27th.

BUT WAIT – THERE'S MORE!

GNAP! THEATER LATENIGHTS: No Shame Theatre is where you can strut your stuff before or after watching others strut *their* stuff. Their *weird*, maybe *experimental*, perhaps *embarrassing* stuff. *Fri., Dec. 21, 10pm. Free.* **Saturday Night Special** brings you a sweet improv doubleheader, featuring **Get Up** and the justifiably jubilant japey of **Junk**. *Sat., Dec. 22, 10pm. \$10.* **Salvage Vanguard Theater**, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. www.gnaptheater.org.

DANCE

BALLET AUSTIN: THE NUTCRACKER Here's the longest-running production of Tchaikovsky's holiday classic in the state of Texas, with choreography by Stephen Mills and local celebs appearing as Mother Ginger and the invigorating score performed live by the Austin Symphony Orchestra. If you're going to see a *Nutcracker* this season, this is the spectacular one you want to see. *Through Dec. 23. Thu., 7:30pm; Fri.-Sat., 2 & 7:30pm; Sun., 2pm.* Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside, 476-2163. \$15-75. www.balletaustin.org.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

★ **ONE OUNCE OPERA'S HIGHFALUTIN HOLIDAY** Red 7 is the only place this season you'll get to hear performances of Texas Swing (with Ghosts Along the Brazos), Americana jazz/blues (with The Love Leighs), the debut performance of a new "musical" (with members of Minor Mishap Marching Band), and, of course, those remarkable sirens of One Ounce Opera. Ululations and yule-elations: Activate! *Thu., Dec. 20, 8pm. Red 7, 611 E. Seventh, 476-8100. \$12 (\$10, in advance).* www.oneounceopera.com.

CHORUS AUSTIN: ON A WINTER'S EVE Ryan Heller directs Chorus Austin's massed ensembles, orchestra, and audience in Vivaldi's *Magnificat*, holiday songs, and more. *Sat., Dec. 22, 7pm. Northwest Hills United Methodist Church, 7050 Village Center, 719-3300. \$20 (\$15, seniors, students).* www.chorusaustin.org.

MORE CLASSICAL MUSIC ALL THE TIME? The University of Texas has an ongoing program of classical and new music galvanizing the audio radiance of the ATX: faculty concerts, student showcases, and world premieres of sonic excellence. We'll spotlight the standouts when we can, but see this website for details: www.music.utexas.edu.

VISUAL ARTS

EVENTS

INK TANK: ARMAGEDDON OUTTA HERE The creative provocateurs of Ink Tank commandeer the Eastside venue of Co-Lab – for the benefit of us all, as a bulwark against the coming catastrophe foretold by that wacky Mayan calendar. Listen: "Any canned or non-perishable food items or supplies you bring this night [will] be added into our community cache and will grant you entry into our safe zone, replete with hope, shelter, and a last supper." It's a pre-apocalyptic art party, is what it is, and you're invited to weather the final storm of doom among friends and strangers, everyone comforted by vodka and beer and the live soundscapes of Zac Traeger and Henna Chou. See "Ink Tank Lab," p.26, for more. *Fri., Dec. 21, starting at 7pm. 613 Allen, 300-8217.* www.colabspace.org.

CLOSING

CANTANKER: THE END This is the newest (and final) issue of that magazine – that *stunning art show between two covers* – called *Cantanker*, but it's also an exhibition of the works themselves, from more'n 20 artists exploring "the end of the world" – as curated by Sean Gaulager, Shea Little, John Mulvany, and Debra Broz at Big Medium. *Through Dec. 23. Mon., Wed., Fri., noon-4pm.* Reopening: *Jan. 2-18. 5305 Bolm.* www.bigmedium.org.

GRAYDUCK GALLERY: FUTURE-PERFECT-IN-PAST TENSE This group show in the terrific gallery just off South First features works by Regina Allen, Adrian Landon Brooks, Cheryl Finrock, D.C. Ice, Megan Kimber, Amy Kligman, Amy Rice, Jeffrey Swanson, and Matthew Winters. *Through Dec. 22. 608-C W. Monroe, 826-5334.* www.grayduckgallery.com.

PUMP PROJECT FLEX SPACE: DRINKING & DRIVING New work by Chris Evans and Ashley Watson, exploring "unguarded moments that occur within the public arena." They totally saw what you did there – and they have the photos to prove it. *Sat., Dec. 22, 1-5pm or by appointment. 1109 Shady.* www.pumpproject.org.



GALLERY BLACK LAGOON: SURREAL

LANDSCAPES Landscapes – actual or fancied, dreamt or remembered – from the past, the present, or the future. Created by Cari Palazzolo, Ryan Davis, William Cardini, Kevin Dehan, Jess Bee, Christa Palazzolo, Cristina Vasquez, Jimmie D. Martin-Hinshaw, Rhythm Method, and Angie Steding. Reception (with music by Mirah Cook and Cari Palazzolo): *Thu., Dec. 20, 7-10pm. 4301-A Guadalupe, 371-8838.* www.galleryblacklagoon.com.

CAROL STENSURD STUDIO SALE Artwork? Yes – Stensrud's paintings and sculptures – but also a garage sale. *Sat., Dec. 22, noon-5pm. 1601 Eva. 694-9207.*

RUSSELL COLLECTION: FEMME FORCE

UNLEASHED Eleven female artists will display work showcasing the feminine force in contemporary art. *Through Dec. 22. Thu.-Sat, 10am-6pm. 1137 W. Sixth, 478-4440.* www.russell-collection.com.

SOUTHPOP: LIVE MUSIC & DEAD CLUBS The South Austin Popular Culture Center presents this "visual history through T-shirts," chronicling **the rise and fall of bands and venues**, charting that storied sequence across the public strata of the **cotton upper-body garments once relegated to underwear** but now (for decades, now) more akin to personal billboards of opinion and taste. *Through Dec. 23. 1516-B S. Lamar, 440-8318.* www.samopc.org.

WALLY WORKMAN GALLERY: ANGIE RENFRO The artist's treatment of stark subject matter – factories, weeds, lightning bugs, and ships at sea – can capture, in oils on panel, "the strange gracefulness of being alone." Indeed. *Through Dec. 22. 1202 W. Sixth, 472-7428.* www.wallyworkmangallery.com.

LITERA

READINGS, SIGNINGS, AND PERFORMANCES

BEDPOST CONFESSIONS Here's where a diverse collection of writers and performers present a wide range of sexualities through storytelling and performance, with audience members sharing their own anonymous sexual confessions – read onstage by producers Sadie Smythe, Julie Gillis, Mia Martina and Rosie Q. This month's guests: burlesque dancer **Nikki DaVaughn**, spirit goddess **Epiphany Jordan**, and the fantabulously funny **Jay Byrd**. Bonus: the *kinky* version of "12 Days of Christmas," as performed by **Jessica Leigh Graves** and her ukulele. Bonus-Bonus: free Drambuie cocktail to first 20 in the door. *Thu., Dec. 20, 8pm. ND at 501 Studios, 501 N. I-35, 485-3001. \$10.* www.bedpostconfessions.com.



AGLCC
AUSTIN GAY & LESBIAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**THIS WEEK'S
FEATURED
CHAMBER MEMBER**



Law Office of Kelley J. Dwyer, PLLC

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WHERE CAN METRORAIL TAKE ME THIS WEEKEND?

END OF THE WORLD PARTY *Fri., Dec.*

21, 5pm-12mid. Banger's Sausage House & Beer Garden, 79 Rainey, 386-1656.

www.bangersaustin.com.

THE HIDEOUT THEATRE *Fri., 10pm. \$12.*

Austin Secrets Improv inspired by secrets submitted by your friends and neighbors.

Sat., 8pm. \$12. Maestro It's improviser against improviser, a whole stage-full of

them, battling for victory in a donnybrook

of comedy improv. Sat., 10pm. \$12. 617

Congress, 476-0473.

www.hideouttheatre.com

LORA REYNOLDS GALLERY: THE SHAPES *Recommended.*

360 Nueces #50, 215-4965.

www.lorareynolds.com



METRORAIL

GO DOWNTOWN.

**Friday & Saturday
'til midnight**

Plan your trip at capmetro.org/metrorail



MUSEUM OF THE WEIRD: CHRISTMAS GHOST STORIES Two spooky tales by British master of the macabre M. R. James, as read by the *Chronicle's* own **Richard Whittaker**, will make your Friday night on Sixth Street a literary outing you'll not soon forget. *Fri., Dec. 21, 8pm. Museum of the Weird, 412 E. Sixth, 476-5493. \$5. www.museumoftheweird.com.*

WRITING/BOOK GROUPS

WRITE BY NIGHT Write, read, collaborate, or just kick back and dream: This is the writerly sanctum you've been looking for, right there near Downtown. See web-site for details. 322-5242. www.writebynight.net.

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY: FUN HOME Alison Bechdel's award-winning graphic novel; discussion led by Jenn and Danithan. *Sun., Dec. 23, 5pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

ARBORETUM POETRY WORKSHOP Join **Barbara Youngblood Carr** and **Herman M. Nelson** for their monthly poetry workshop. Bring 10 copies of a work in progress for friendly critiquing. *Thu., Dec. 20, 7-30pm. Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985.*

OPEN MICS

NEO-SOUL LOUNGE Where great poetry gets its flavor. Hosted by South Flavas. *Thursdays, 9pm-12mid. 1050 E. 11th. \$6. www.southflavas.com/neosoul.html.*

OPEN MICS Austin Poetry Slam *Tuesdays, 8pm. 29th St. Ballroom, 2906 Fruth. Multimedia Poetry Wednesdays, 6:30pm. Thrive, 909 W. Mary. Fair Bean Fridays, 5-7:30pm. Fair Bean Coffee, 2210-I S. First. Full English Tea Room* Thom hosts. *Saturdays, 8-9pm. 2000 Southern Oaks. Spoken & Heard Sundays, 7-10pm. Kick Butt Coffee, 5775 Airport #725. More listed online!*

MISCELLANEOUS

RIC UP YER EARS: A FAREWELL TO HIS CHARMS & he said: let it stay, the long dry grass, clumps & brown leaves, bodies of insects molted, skins of snakes, tufts of hair. new things find shelter in such places, glue then to now to a when old soft eyes leave for a winter's round. Ahem: This will be my last word as the *Litera* editor. Nearly 25 years and so honored to have been so lucky to work for and serve the fine folks of the *Chronicle* and of Austin. I am moving to Santa Fe. Retiring. Getting married. Doing nothing save what the day brings. What else but that can a poor poet do? Be kind, keep dancing, be as uncertain of what I know as the weather is of what it brings. Above all, love life. With every ounce of my heart. Namaste. Vaya con dios. Dance.

— Ric Williams

POEM OF THE ISSUE

my life was born inside a book
my spine a paperback/flexible
my taste/emancipated/populist
the books i ate became my diet
books i made food for others
buffet, banquet, fast food, feast
now time has gone for some i knew
their books forgotten/my new view
is to treat every last line as my first

— Thom the World Poet, "and so it glows"

COMMUNITY

AUSTIN TRAIL OF LIGHTS It's privately funded these days, but lights are lights, amirite? Every evening has a theme with some manner of festive entertainment. Food and drinks will be available from local trailers. Park at Austin High School for \$5 and the money goes to the school's orchestra. *Through Dec. 23, 6-10pm. Zilker Park, 2100 Barton Springs Rd., 974-6700. Free. www.austintrailoflights.org.*

BUDA TRAIL OF LIGHTS Local businesses, churches, and organizations will be lousy with holiday lights and decorations, so come out and get a good look. Shuttles are available at the nearby Cabela's if you want to avoid the parking hassle. *Through Dec. 20, 6-10pm. Historic Stagecoach Park, 880 Main St., Buda, 512/295-7170. Free. www.ci.buda.tx.us.*

JUSTICE FOR CYCLIST CODY JOHNSON Friends and fellow cyclists will gather outside the District Attorney's office to protest the sentence given to the man who was charged with DWI after hitting Johnson with his car, killing him. *Fri., Dec. 21, 12:30pm. Travis County District Attorney, 509 W. 11th edit, 854-9400. www.traviscountydca.com.*

HOLIDAY LIGHT SHOW This local coffee shop has been stepping up its holiday light game for years. Every hour the lights and music explode with the

spirit of the holidays. *Through Jan. 1, 6pm-12mid. Mozart's Coffee Roasters, 3825 Lake Austin Blvd. Free.*

SANTA'S RANCH Santa's tired of waiting for global warming to catch up at the North Pole. He's spending most of his pre-Christmastime among the 1.5 million lights of Santa's Ranch. Why not join him? *Through Dec. 30, 6-10pm. 9561 N. I-35, New Braunfels (two miles south of Tanger Outlet Mall), 830/743-1293. \$24 per car. www.santasranch.net.*

WHOLE FOODS MARKET ICE RINK It isn't easy getting into a Winter Wonderland mood in Texas. This little frozen oasis can help you forget about climate change for a little while. *Through Dec. 23. Whole Foods Market, 525 N. Lamar, 542-2225. \$10. www.wholefoods.com.*

MUELLER SOLSTICE LITES Luminarias will light up the park for a holiday walk with the family, so grab a cup of hot cocoa and a cookie and enjoy the view. *Fri., Dec. 21, 6-9pm. Mueller Hangar, 4550 Mueller Blvd., 360/790-1774. Free. briancobbbevergreen@gmail.com.*

AUTISM PROJECT PARTY LIKE IT'S 12/21/12 Even if you don't believe it's end times, at least you can party like it is. In this case, you'll also be helping out the Autism Project at the same time. *Fri., Dec. 21, 7-10pm. Molotov Lounge. \$10. www.eventbrite.com/org/3026663368.*

CAROLING IN THE CAVE Caroling ... in a CAVE! Seriously, you go in a cavern and then you carol ... in a damned cave. *Sat., Dec. 22, 6pm. Longhorn Caverns, 6211 Park Road 4 S., Burnet, 877/441-2283, 830/598-2283. \$25. www.longhorncaverns.com.*

AN EVENING OF CHRISTMAS GHOST STORIES Halloween is invading our Xmas tales, so come prepared to shriek. Two of the stories will be read by the *Chronicle's* own resident spooky Englishman, Richard Whittaker. *Fri., Dec. 21, 8pm. Museum of the Weird, 412 E. Sixth, 476-5493. \$5. www.museumoftheweird.com.*

JIGGLEWATTS BURLESQUE TEASE THE SEASON These elves have been naughty all year, and now it's time to show you all they've learned. *Fri., Dec. 21, 8 & 11pm. Maggie Mae's, 323 E. Sixth, 478-8541. \$15-25. www.thejigglewattsburlesque.com.*

BEGINNING OF THE WORLD PARTY It may or not be end times, so it might be time for some desperate stabs at the afterlife. Music, live painting, poetry, Reiki energy healing, crystal healing, and a few other kinds of healing all prep you for ... uh ... tomorrow. *Fri., Dec. 21, 9pm-2am. The Parish, 214 E. Sixth, 473-8381. \$21.12.*

GRAND REOPENING OF THE LBJ LIBRARY It won't be wrapped, but there will be a ribbon cutting as LBJ gives Austin a big present this holiday season, opening their redesigned core exhibit. Live music, birthday cake in honor of Mrs. Johnson, giveaways, book signings, and decorated trees in the Great Hall get you in the party mood. *Sat., Dec. 22, 9am-5pm. LBJ Library, 721-0200. \$3-8. www.lbjlibrary.org.*

HOLIDAY LIGHTS HELICOPTER TOURS Tired of seeing our city all lit up for the holidays from the ground? Well, these short tours grant you a bird's-eye view. *Fridays & Saturdays through December. Bud Dryden Airport, 10301 FM 969, 866/205-7084. \$125, 15-minute tour; \$255, 30-minute tour. www.austinhelicoptertours.com.*

CAMP FIRE NATURE TIKES Toddlers and preschool age children can get started learning about nature at these monthly events. The theme this time around is fur, skin, and other coverings. *Sat., Dec. 22, 10:30am. Westbank Community Library, 1309 Westbank Dr., 327-3045. Free. www.camp-fire.org.*

YULE BAZAAR is one of your last chances for unique holiday shopping as vendors, entertainers, and musicians congregate to help you get in the spirit of shopping local. Warm up by the yule campfire, sit down for real talk on the dark side of the season, and get the kids singing along to some of the live acts. *Sat-Sun., Dec. 22-23, noon-5pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. Free. www.facebook.com/events/405974242809476.*

HOPE FARMERS MARKET This weekly gathering is part farmers' market, part community meeting, and part arts exchange. Browse the local produce options while learning about local organizations, signing up for wellness opportunities, or participating in a free yoga class. *Sundays, 11am-3pm. Pine Street Station, 414 Waller. www.hopefarmersmarket.org.*

SPORTS

THE HOME TEAMS

★ **TEXAS STARS** For more on the Stars, see our Sports blog, **the Score**. Vs. Oklahoma City: *Thu., Dec. 27, 7:30pm. Cedar Park Center, 2100 Avenue of the Stars, Cedar Park, 512/600-5000. \$11-64 plus fees. www.texasstarshockey.com.*

★ **AUSTIN TOROS** See our sports blog, the Score, for more on the Toros. Vs. Reno: *Fri., Dec. 21, 7:30pm. Vs. Sioux Falls: Sat., Dec. 22, 7:30pm. Cedar Park Center, 2100 Avenue of the Stars, Cedar Park, 512/236-8333 x4651. \$4-39. www.austintoros.com.*

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS Women's Basketball Vs. Cornell: *Thu., Dec. 20, 7pm. Frank Erwin Center, 1701 Red River. \$8-16. www.texassports.com.*

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY Women's Basketball Vs. UT-Dallas: *Thu., Dec. 20, 1pm. Men's Basketball* Vs. UT-Dallas: *Thu., Dec. 20, 3pm. athletics.concordia.edu.*

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball Vs. Hardin-Simmons: *Thu., Dec. 20, 2pm. Corbin J. Roberston Center. www.southwesternpirates.com.*

Day Trips

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

Adobe Walls, about 100 miles north-east of Amarillo, has melted into the buffalo grass-covered prairie between low hills to the west and a small mesa to the east. Granite monuments are the only indications that this was the site of a pivotal battle between the Plains Indians and encroaching buffalo hunters.

The battle, which took place on June 27, 1874, is one of the iconic engagements of the Old West. Barricaded in three adobe buildings, 28 men and one woman held off hundreds of mounted warriors. One of those present was gambler William Barclay "Bat" Masterson.

On the other side, Quanah Parker led a coalition of tribes. There were probably around 250 Indians, though the number was often exaggerated. The medicine man had promised the power to stop bullets and an easy victory.



The battle went badly for the Indians from the start. Fortified behind the thick sod walls, the buffalo hunters had high-powered rifles. Billy Dixon used one of the Sharps rifles to knock an Indian off his horse from almost a mile away. The warriors soon slipped away to fight another day. It was the beginning of the end for the nomadic Plains Indians.

The Adobe Walls site is now on the Turkey Track Ranch, 27.6 miles northeast of Stinnett. In 1929, the state moved Dixon's grave to the site. For directions, contact the Hutchinson County Museum in Borger at 806/273-0130 or www.hutchinsoncountymuseum.org.

1,116th in a series. Collect them all. Day Trips, Vol. 2, a book of "Day Trips," is available for \$8.95, plus \$3.05 for shipping, handling, and tax. Mail to: Day Trips, PO Box 33284, South Austin, TX 78704.

HOLIDAY BAZAARS

VSA TEXAS HOLIDAY ART & GIFT SHOW Support local artists with disabilities and get some holiday shopping done at the same time. Braille cards, prints, ornaments, books, and original art all await your holiday dollars. *Through Dec. 24, Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm. AGE Building, 3710 Cedar, 454-9912. Free. www.vsatx.org.*

BLUE GENIE ART BAZAAR Need something Austin-y (art, jewelry, prints, clothing, etc., whatnot, and then some) for a loved one this year? More than 125 artists and artisans will help you with your gifting conundrums. Special events occur throughout the month of December, so shop early and often. *Through Dec. 24, 10am-10pm, every day. The Marchesa Hall & Theatre, 6406 N. I-35 #3100, 454-2000. Free. www.bluegenieartbazaar.com.*

ARMADILLO CHRISTMAS BAZAAR Nothing says holidays in Austin like scouring aisles and aisles of local art, crafts, and — thank God — beer, all while surrounded by tunes from one of many musical acts performing this year. Don't worry; Post Office reps will be on the premises to spare you from lugging all that holiday cheer home. *Through Dec. 24, 11am-11pm. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 447-1605. \$5, weekdays till 7pm; \$8, evenings and weekends. www.armadillobazaar.com.*

ARABIC BAZAAR Arabic music, belly dancing and belly-dance classes (free with purchase of a dance cards), complimentary Arabic sweets, candy, and coffee — all of these accompany a bazaar full of goodies from Syria, Egypt, and Morocco for exotic holiday gifts. *Sundays through Dec. 23, 10am-7pm. Arabic Bazaar, 5013 Duval St., 533-9227. www.thearabicbazaar.com.*



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AUSTIN TABLE TENNIS CLUB is Austin's premier table tennis facility, featuring 16 tables, wi-fi, a weight room, a lounge, and much more. *Austin Table Tennis Club*, 8956 Research. 491-7664. www.austintabletennis.com.

TEXAS OUTDOORS WOMAN NETWORK is open to ladies of any age who are interested in outdoor fun. *Tue., Dec. 25, 6pm. LCRA Red Bud Complex, 3601 Lake Austin Blvd., room RBC 225. www.townaustin.org.*

RUNS, WALKS, & RIDES

✦ **THURSDAY NIGHT SOCIAL RIDE** Between 250 and 300 cyclists are expected to take part in this friendly, socially paced ride of 12 to 15 miles. Riders will stop for cars and try not to block intersections along the way. This adult ride concludes at a different bar each week. *Fiesta Beach, N. I-35 and Lady Bird Lake. Free.*

KIDS

GINGERBREAD WORKSHOP Kids and parents are invited to create their own sugary abodes from locally baked gingerbread. *Dec. 20-23: Thu., 10am, 3:30pm; Fri.-Sat., 10am, 12:30, 3:30pm; Sun., 12:30 & 3:30pm. Austin Children's Museum, 201 Colorado, 472-2499 x201. \$35 (\$30, members). www.austinkids.org/Programs/Seasonal/Gingerbread-House-Workshops.aspx.*

JINGLE BELLS, BATMAN SMELLS Junie B. Jones and her classmates have an adventure that warms the heart with holiday cheer. *Fri., Dec. 21, 7pm; Sat., Dec. 22, 11am & 1pm. Scottish Rite Theater, 207 W. 18th, 809-7799. \$10 (\$8, kids). www.scottishritetheater.org.*

ANNIE JR. Local kids perform this classic musical for kids. *Sat., Dec. 22, 11am & 1:30pm. Zach Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0594. \$10 (\$8, kids). www.zachtheatre.org.*

DISNEY LIVE! MICKEY'S MUSIC FESTIVAL Your favorite Disney tunes are sung by a mouse, a duck, a few princesses, a crab, and a toy cowboy. We're a bit concerned that the songs will be "remixed to the hottest sounds of today," but we doubt the kids will mind. *Sun., Dec. 23, 1, 4, & 7pm. Frank Erwin Center, 1701 Red River, 471-7744. \$17 and up. www.uterwincenter.com/events/2012/disney-live.*

MONSTER FAMILIES: FLYING THEATER MACHINE IMPROV Only the baby of the monster family can see the audience, and that's where these improvisors will be getting their inspiration, so be prepared to offer suggestions. *Sundays through Dec. 30, 2pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 971-3311. \$7. www.hideouttheatre.com.*

Soccer Watch

BY NICK BARBARO

There are several different bits of **Austin Aztex** news this week, all of it good:

- Aztex phenom **Kekuta Manneh** is reportedly the first youth player to sign an MLS contract under this year's Generation Adidas program. The Gambian-born Manneh already had a try-out with the L.A. Galaxy earlier this year, while still a junior at Lake Travis High. He'll turn 18 next week... Aztex midfielder **Dillon Powers** was also on the short list of 17 names sent to MLS coaches this week as players available for the MLS SuperDraft. I'm pretty sure no other PDL club was so well represented.

- It was confirmed this week that the Aztex will compete in the **2013 U.S. Open Cup**, due to their top-two finish in the PDL Mid South last year. That national tournament, one of the oldest in the world, pits teams from amateur levels all the way up through MLS, in a knockout format. Best-case scenario: a first-ever match-up with the **San Antonio Scorpions** in the second round, with the winner taking on the **Houston Dynamo**.

- The **United Soccer Leagues Organizational & Executive Honors** awards were presented Dec. 14 at the league's winter meeting in Clearwater, Fla. The Aztex came away with two of the nine PDL honors, the only team in the 73-team league to do so. They were cited for marketing excellence, while Director of Operations **Ric Granryd** earned the Betsy McAdams Key Grip Award, recognizing a club staffer who "exemplifies excellence in their work." Here, here... Also: Reportedly, the PDL Mid South will get a new team in Oklahoma City in 2013.

Plans for the new **National Women's Soccer League**, to be administered by U.S. Soccer, are firming up. The NWSL will begin in the spring of 2013 with eight teams: Boston Breakers, Chicago Red Stars, FC Kansas City, Portland Thorns FC, Sky Blue FC, Washington Spirit, Western New York Flash, and Seattle (unnamed).



BOONE & FRIENDS Singin' and dancin', kiddie style. *Sun., Dec. 23, 10:30am. Cherrywood Coffeehouse, 1400 E. 38½, 531-1991. Free. www.cherrywoodcoffeehouse.com.*

WINTER BREAK CAMP Are the kids starving for activity in their school-deprived vacation? Let the Nature & Science Center give them a day of science learning, outdoor exploration, and playing. For kids ages 5-11. *Dec. 24, 26, 27, 28, & 31; Jan. 2, 3, & 4; 8am-5pm. Austin Nature & Science Center, 301 Nature Center Dr., 974-3888. \$45 per day. www.austintexas.gov/ansc.*

GALAXY DANCE WINTER CAMP Kids too amped up from gift overload? Perhaps three days of dance lessons might tire them out. *Wed.-Fri., Dec. 26-28 & Jan. 2-4, noon-5pm. Galaxy Dance Studios, 1700 S. Lamar #338, 442-5299. \$45 (three-day camp, \$125). www.galaxydances.com.*

OUT OF TOWN

PICTURE YOURSELF WITH SANTA Have your picture taken with Santa, and then take a twilight hike, join the crafts making, and do a bit of star gazing. *Fri., Dec. 21, 6:30-9pm. McKinney Falls State Park, 5808 McKinney Falls Pkwy., 243-1643. \$6 for 13 and older. www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/mckinney-falls.*

A COSMIC NEW WORLD BEGINS Celebrate the end of the world as we know it or just another winter solstice with a toast and music at the creative community of renovated vintage trailers, safari tents, Sioux teepees, and campsites. *Fri., Dec. 21, 4-8pm. El Cosmico, 802 S. Highland Ave., Marfa, 432/729-1950. www.elcosmico.com.*

CHRISTMAS BALL Make the annual holiday dance with Gary P Nunn and the Bunkhouse Band a new holiday tradition. *Dec. 22, 9-11:55pm. Luckenbach, 830/997-3224. \$20. www.luckenbachtexas.com.*

COWBOY CHRISTMAS Visit the Old West town to see a live nativity scene, continuous entertainment, stick pony and pedal tractor races, rides through the animal park, refreshments, and more. *Sat.-Sun., Dec. 22-23. Enchanted Springs Ranch, Boerne, 830/249-8222 x202. \$7-14. www.enchantedspringsranch.com.*

BOXING DAY The day after Christmas is traditionally when the British receive their Christmas bonuses from their employers. It became a Texas tradition when Dr. Becker invited a few friends out to the winery the day after Christmas for a small party, and visitors showed up looking for something to do when most places were closed. Now everyone is welcome to join in a reading of "A Christmas Carol," holiday hors d'oeuvres, and music. *Wed., Dec. 26, 10am-5pm. Becker Vineyards, Stonewall, 830/644-2128. Free. www.beckervineyards.com.*

New Year's Guide

It's easy to be blinded by all the holidays piling up this time of year, but New Year's is right around the corner. Don't get stuck at home with Ryan Seacrest; check out our listings online at austinchronicle.com/nye. Here's a few events to get you in the mood.



FOOD

BAR & RESTAURANT EMPLOYEE NEW YEAR'S EVE

Affectionately known as BARENYE, this event is for those who work on NYE. Everything you expect from such a soiree – countdown, balloon drop, prizes, a Champagne toast, etc. – will be there a day early. *Sun., Dec. 30, 8pm. Speakeasy, 412 Congress. Free. www.barenye.eventbrite.com.*

HOTELS

HORSESHOE BAY RESORT NEW YEAR'S EVE

Looking to extend your celebration over a few days? Horseshoe Bay has activities and parties from Friday until the new year, including stuff for the little ones to do, as well as adult entertainment culminating with the Ballroom Celebration. *Horseshoe Bay Resort, Horseshoe Bay, 877/611-0112. www.hsbresort.com.*

MUSIC

A*FAB AND ASA NEW YEAR'S EVE The Susan Arbuckle Band, special musical performer Tje Austin, and host Rich Segal headline this schman-cy evening. Ring in the new year with the requisite Champagne toast, and welcome 2013 with a yummy midnight breakfast buffet. Proceeds go to embetter the great work AIDS Services of Austin does all year. *Mon., Dec. 31, 9pm. Hyatt Regency Austin, 208 Barton Springs Rd., 477-1234. \$125 and up. www.afabaustin.com.*

NYE WITH AFRICAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR & TAYLOR KITSCH Connie Britton and Taylor Kitsch of *Friday Night Lights* fame will host the sounds of this charitable choir, with the evening's proceeds going to the Music for Life Institute. With this kinda star power, you'll want to get tickets early. *Mon., Dec. 31, 8pm-2am. Lustre Pearl, 97 Rainey. \$150. www.dunlapatx.com/african-childrens-choir.*

WILLIE NELSON & FRIENDS The man himself gets 2013 started off right with the help of Iron & Wine opening up. That's a fair amount of beard. *Mon., Dec. 31. ACL Live at the Moody Theater, 310 W. Willie Nelson Blvd., 225-7999. www.acl-live.com.*

THEATRE, ART, & COMEDY

AUSTIN'S NEW YEAR Del Castillo and fireworks cap off this evening of art, film, and music for the whole family. *Mon., Dec. 31, 5-10:30pm. Auditorium Shores, 920 W. Riverside, 974-9316. Free. www.austintexas.gov/any.*

ESTHER'S COMEDY BLOWOUT Laugh in the new year with Austin's go-to troupe for all things timely, funny, and magical. Admission gets you Tex-Mex bites, a Champagne toast, and, of course, a show. Two shows, 8 & 10:30pm. *Mon., Dec. 31. Esther's Pool, 525 E. Sixth, 320-0553. \$45 (\$55, reserved).*

IMPROV EXTRAVAGANZA The Hideout invites you to ring in the new year improv-style with an evening of games and skits and a Champagne toast at midnight to top it all off. Two shows: 8 & 10:30pm. Afterward, you can stumble out onto Congress and hope a cab has pity on you. *Mon., Dec. 31. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 443-3688. \$30. www.hideouttheatre.com.*

OTHER

NOON YEAR'S EVE Just because midnight is after your under-12 children's bedtime doesn't mean they can't celebrate. Come to the arcade, craft a crown or tiara to wear, and grab a cupcake to enjoy as the balloons drop at noon. *Mon., Dec. 31, 10:30am-noon. Pinballz Arcade, 8940 Research #100, 420-8458. \$5 per child. www.pinballzarcade.com.*

Christmas at First Austin

Join Us for These Christmas Events

"A Gospel Christmas"
Sunday, December 16, 11 am
 with Sanctuary Choir and Jazz Ensemble
A Message of Hope
 from Sr. Pastor Dr. Roger Paynter

Candlelight Christmas Music Service
Wednesday, December 19, 6:15 pm
 Preceded by Hors d'oeuvres at 5:30 pm
 Solos and Ensembles, Vocal and Instrumental

Christmas Eve Worship Candles, Carols, Communion
Monday, December 24, 5 pm
 Vocal and Piano Concert by Sue and Joseph Martin
 5:30 pm: Meditation by Dr. Roger Paynter



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This Is 40



Hyde Park on Hudson



The Guilt Trip

NEW REVIEWS

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL: WORLDS AWAY

D: Andrew Adamson; with Erica Linz, Igor Zaripov, Lutz Halbhuhn, Dallas Barnett, Matt Gillanders, John Clarke. (PG, 91 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. James Cameron, who is something of a high-wire artist himself, executive-produces this 3-D spectacle. The Cirque's gymnasts show off their moves in between a wraparound plot about a girl from the audience who falls in love with one of the company's aerialists.

– Marjorie Baumgarten

Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

DJANGO UNCHAINED

D: Quentin Tarantino; with Jamie Foxx, Christoph Waltz, Leonardo DiCaprio, Kerry Washington, Samuel L. Jackson. (R, 165 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. As a follow-up to his idiosyncratic rewrite of history in his idiosyncratically spelled *Inglourious Basterds*, Tarantino tackles the iniquity of slavery in the antebellum South. Snagging genre elements from spaghetti Westerns and love stories, Tarantino vividly paints the slave-turned-bounty hunter Django as an African-American Spartacus with a distinctly Tarantino-esque vibe. (Opens Tuesday.)

– Marjorie Baumgarten

Alamo Lake Creek, Alamo Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Flix Brewhouse, iPic, Tinseltown South, Westgate

THE GUILT TRIP

D: Anne Fletcher; with Barbra Streisand, Seth Rogen, Kathy Najimy, Colin Hanks, Nora Dunn. (PG-13, 95 min.)

This film completely surrenders to its premise, with everything else following in a predictable way. Inventor Andy Brewster (Rogen) is about to start on a cross-country road trip to pitch his new product – a cleaner – to major chains. On the spur of the moment, he invites his mother Joyce (Streisand) to join him. The only surprising thing about their trip is that though it features classic and typical Jewish humor – the overbearing mom and the overwhelmed son – the pairs surname is Brewster, and there is no mention of religion.

Streisand and Rogen are both impressive comedic talents, but in an attempt at sophistication, they both very much underplay their roles, which is to the detriment of the film. The resulting tone is not shrill, nor does it

boast an absurd number of embarrassing moments. *The Guilt Trip* fails in a completely opposite direction: It is gentle, loving, and way too understated. Therefore, it's overwhelmingly sweet, but also unexciting and not about much of anything.

One would quite logically expect more from this release – especially since it's from such romantic-comedy pros as director Anne Fletcher (27 Dresses, The Proposal) and writer Dan Fogelman (Crazy, Stupid, Love.) – only you don't get it. There is one moment toward the end that sent chills up and down my back – only not enough to redeem the whole film. *The Guilt Trip* has laughs throughout, yet they never build on one another. Instead, they sequentially follow in an earnest, linear way. Watching this movie is not a complete waste of time, but it is little more than a sitcom-lite diversion.

– Louis Black

Alamo South Lamar, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Highland, Galaxy Moviehouse, Gateway, iPic, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

HYDE PARK ON HUDSON

D: Roger Michell; with Bill Murray, Laura Linney, Samuel West, Olivia Colman, Elizabeth Marvel, Olivia Williams, Elizabeth Wilson. (R, 95 min.)

These days, most revelations of sexual infidelities and dalliances engaged in by our political leaders have lost their power to shock or even mildly surprise us. So common are the disclosures and so omnipresent are our media updates that we have grown inured as a society to such naked truths. Yet, there's something indecorous about this glimpse of Franklin Delano Roosevelt as a presidential rake, a serial adulterer who carried on multiple and simultaneous affairs with women other than his wife, Eleanor (who's been subject to a whole different set of sexual rumors). It's not exactly tawdriness we experience as we observe FDR's personal automobile bob up and down in a distant field of flowers after he has placed his cousin Daisy's hand on his inner thigh. It's the ordinariness of the act, the sight of a president as a cliché, that makes it seem as though we, too, have copped a feel of the presidential scepter.

The Roosevelt family home in Hyde Park on Hudson in New York state is one of the spots FDR (played by Bill Murray in a visionary bit of casting) decamped to when he escaped Washington, D.C. The household

openings

Cirque du Soleil: Worlds Away (PG)

Django Unchained (R)

The Guilt Trip (PG-13)

Hyde Park on Hudson (R)

Jack Reacher (PG-13)

Les Misérables (PG-13)

Parental Guidance (PG)

This Is 40 (R)

ratings

★★★★★ As perfect as a movie can be

★★★★ Slightly flawed, but excellent nonetheless

★★★ Has its good points, and its bad points

★★ Mediocre, but with one or two bright spots

★ Poor, without any saving graces

🍌 La bomba

is under the command of his domineering mother (Wilson), who is the one who launches FDR's affair with Margaret "Daisy" Suckley (Laura Linney) when she invites the president's sixth cousin over to "keep him company." *Hyde Park on Hudson* is based on the letters found underneath Suckley's bed when she died at the age of 99, which revealed the affair she had kept secret until her death.

Screenwriter Richard Nelson casts the film's disclosure of this relationship against the backdrop of an event of greater historic significance, which occurs over the the course of one weekend in 1939. England is on the precipice of entering World War II, and the newly enthroned King George VI and Queen Elizabeth (yes, the same royals who found Oscar glory in *The King's Speech*) are making an unofficial visit to the president in order to seek America's support for the war. Roosevelt astutely has them come to his boyhood home in New York rather than the nation's capital, since isolationist sentiments are widespread across America at this point. Roosevelt further makes the case for unity between the two nations by insisting on a photo op of the king eating a hot dog.

Daisy narrates the film through a recurring voiceover, though the film never explains how her point of view could be vast enough to repeat the conversations that occurred in the king and queen's bedroom and FDR's private study. That's just sloppy storytelling. Worse is that Linney, who is usually so marvelous, gives a performance in this film that lacks definition and personality. Mostly what remains is the stunt casting of Bill Murray, which works so much better than it has any right to. Not only is his a charming and believable performance, but Murray also enlivens the character with a touch of comic wit and effervescence. When Murray's around, he's the only hot dog in the room.

★★ – *Marjorie Baumgarten*
Arbor

JACK REACHER

D: Christopher McQuarrie; with Tom Cruise, Rosamund Pike, Richard Jenkins, David Oyelowo, Werner Herzog. (PG-13, 130 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. Christopher McQuarrie reunites with Tom Cruise after penning the script for *Valkyrie* – only this time he's also directing. The writer of *The Usual Suspects* bases this thriller on one of the books from Lee Child's prolific Jack Reacher series.

– *Marjorie Baumgarten*

Alamo Lake Creek, Alamo Slaughter Lane, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Flix Brewhouse, Highland, Galaxy Moviehouse, Gateway, iPic, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

LES MISÉRABLES

D: Tom Hooper; with Hugh Jackman, Russell Crowe, Anne Hathaway, Amanda Seyfried, Sacha Baron Cohen, Helena Bonham Carter, Eddie Redmayne, Samantha Barks. (PG-13, 157 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. You can bet this long-awaited Christmas present will be tied up with a big, shiny bow. There's no

reason to think this popular stage hit with its dramatic tunes and emphatic morality lessons will be any less popular onscreen. (Opens Tuesday.) – *Marjorie Baumgarten*
Alamo Lake Creek, Alamo South Lamar, Arbor, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Flix Brewhouse, Gateway, iPic, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Violet Crown, Westgate

PARENTAL GUIDANCE

D: Andy Fickman; with Billy Crystal, Bette Midler, Marisa Tomei, Tom Everett Scott, Bailee Madison, Joshua Rush, Kyle Harrison Breitkopf. (PG, 104 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. The habits of old-school grandparents collide with the practices of modern-day kids when the elders look after their grandchildren for a spell. This nicely cast comedy looks perfect for intergenerational movie outings during the holidays. (Opens Tuesday.) – *Marjorie Baumgarten*
Alamo Lake Creek, Barton Creek Square, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Tinseltown South, Westgate

THIS IS 40

D: Judd Apatow; with Paul Rudd, Leslie Mann, Maude Apatow, Iris Apatow, Albert Brooks, Jason Segel, Megan Fox, Robert Smigel, Annie Mumolo, Charlyne Yi, Chris O'Dowd, Melissa McCarthy. (R, 134 min.)

"We have to choose to be happy," says wife and mom Debbie (Mann), who has whorled herself into an existential tizzy after turning 40. Is happiness a choice? It's an idea worth exploring, but writer/director Judd Apatow isn't exactly laserlike in his focus; he's more like a dog licking the entire kitchen floor clean just to find that one tile smudged with bacon grease. At a baggy 134 minutes, that's a lot of licking – plenty of time to ponder the film's manic swings between ambitious and facile, enormously likable and sour to taste.

Debbie and husband Pete (Rudd) – supporting characters from Apatow's 2007 comedy *Knocked Up* – are moving reluctantly toward middle age. There's no going gently into the night for Debbie: "40 can suck my dick!" she howls at film's beginning. The dirty words are a feint. At its desperate and raw, clogged-artery core, *This Is 40* is a powerful evocation of family life as war zone. Debbie and Pete seethe with resentment; sex tends to end in a screechy-pitched bicker; eldest daughter Sadie loathes her little sister Charlotte (they are played by Apatow and Mann's real-life children Maude and Iris); and Debbie and Pete's adult fathers (John Lithgow and Albert Brooks) are, respectively, emotionally distant and financially dependent.

I wonder if Apatow meant it all to come off so bleakly? Was he binging on Bergman when he wrote the script? I wonder, too, if he knew how tin-eared this diorama of privilege sometimes sounds? While money woes ostensibly fuel the couple's troubles, there's no real sense of danger there. Yes, they might be missing mortgage payments and chronically mismanaging two businesses (she owns a used-clothing store; he runs a specialty record label), but at

least there's the BMW to retire to for a private cry. (There are no repercussions here, just as there is never a legitimate threat of divorce, even though Pete and Debbie openly despise each other throughout much of the film.) Another scene has Debbie and Pete ganging up on a single mother (Melissa McCarthy) at their daughters' school, goading her until she is shuddering with impotent rage at the pretty couple telling lies through their teeth. It's a deeply funny scene that nonetheless leaves an ugly stain: Does Apatow understand his heroes are assholes?

★★★ – *Kimberley Jones*

Alamo Slaughter Lane, Alamo Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Flix Brewhouse, Highland, Galaxy Moviehouse, Gateway, iPic, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate



Jack Reacher

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The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG-13) **DBox Motion Seating** Fri. - Thu. 11:00 2:45 6:30 10:15

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 11:00 11:30 12:30 2:45 3:15 4:00 6:30 7:00 10:15 10:45 11:15

Sun. - Thu. 11:00 11:30 12:30 2:45 3:15 4:00 6:30 7:00 7:30 10:15 10:45

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG-13) Fri. - Thu. 11:15 3:00 6:45 10:30

Skyfall (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 1:00 4:00 7:05 10:15 11:50

Sun. - Thu. 1:00 4:00 7:05 10:15

Rise of the Guardians 3D (PG) Fri. & Sat. 2:05 6:55 11:30

Sun. - Thu. 2:05 6:55

Rise of the Guardians (PG) Fri. - Thu. 12:00 4:30 9:15

Killing Them Softly (R) Fri. - Thu. 12:40 2:55 5:10 7:35 9:55

Life of Pi (PG) Fri. - Thu. 11:00 1:50 4:40 7:25 10:10

The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 11:10 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00 11:59

Sun. - Thu. 11:10 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

Wreck-It Ralph (PG) Fri. - Thu. 12:00 2:25 4:50 7:15

Playing for Keeps (PG-13) Fri. - Thu. 9:40

The first showing of every movie is only \$6 Monday thru Friday. Upcharge for 3D or DBox apply. Excludes 1st week of new movies.

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Showtimes:

Les Misérables (PG-13) **Dine-In** Tue. - Thu. 11:30 3:30 7:00 10:15

This Is 40 (R) **Dine-In** Fri. - Sun. & Tue. - Thu. 12:30 4:45 8:00 11:00

Mon. 12:30 4:45 8:00

Django Unchained (R) Tue. - Thu. 11:00 2:45 6:30 10:00

Jack Reacher (PG-13) **Dine-In** Fri. - Sun. 12:15 3:30 7:30 10:30

Mon. 12:15 3:30 7:30

Tue. - Thu. 10:00 1:15 4:30 7:30 10:30

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG-13) **Dine-In** Fri. - Sun. 11:00 11:15 2:45 3:00 6:30 7:00 10:00 10:45

Mon. 11:00 11:15 2:45 3:00 6:30 7:00

Tue. - Thu. 10:30 2:15 6:00 9:30

The Gull Trip (PG-13) **Dine-In** Fri. - Sun. 11:00 1:30 3:45 6:15 8:45

Mon. 11:00 1:30 3:45 6:15

Tue. - Thu. 11:45 2:00 4:15 6:30 8:45

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG-13) **DFX High Frame Rate** Fri. - Sun. & Tue. - Thu. 11:30 3:15 7:00 10:45

Mon. 11:30 3:15 7:00

Jack Reacher (PG-13) Fri. - Sun. 10:30 1:30 4:15 7:15 10:15

Mon. 10:30 1:30 4:15 7:15

Tue. - Thu. 12:00 3:30 7:00 10:30

Les Misérables (PG-13) Tue. - Thu. 12:00 4:00 7:30 10:45

This Is 40 (R) Fri. - Sun. 11:15 2:00 5:00 8:00 10:45

Mon. 11:15 2:00 5:00 8:00

Monsters, Inc. 3D (G) Fri. - Sun. & Tue. - Thu. 12:00 2:15 4:30 7:00 9:15

Mon. 12:00 2:15 4:30 7:00

Parental Guidance (PG) Tue. - Thu. 10:45 1:00 3:30 6:00 8:15 10:30

Skyfall (PG-13) Fri. - Sun. 12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00

Mon. 12:00 3:00 6:00

Rise of the Guardians (PG) Fri. - Sun. 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:30

Mon. 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:15

Tickets @ www.TheMoviehouse.com

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Check Film Listings online or on your mobile device for full-length reviews, up-to-date showtimes, archives, and more!

austinchronicle.com/film

SHOWTIMES

FRIDAY, DEC. 21-THURSDAY, DEC. 27

An asterisk (*) before a title means that no passes or special admission discounts will be accepted.

FOR UPDATED SHOWTIMES, SEE austinchronicle.com/film.

Changes may sometimes occur; viewers are encouraged to call theatres to confirm showtimes.

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE AT THE RITZ 320 E. Sixth, 476-1320. Showtimes at this venue are subject to frequent change. Please confirm daily by phone or website.
Master Pancake: Christmas Show Fri-Sat, 7:00, 10:00
Big Screen Classics: A Christmas Story Fri, 12:15pm; Sat-Sun, 4:15pm
Tough Guy Cinema: Die Hard Fri, 11:45pm; Sat, 11:30pm; Mon, 4:00pm
Action Pack: Elf Quote-Along! Tue, 7:00pm; Thu (12/27), 7:00pm
Tough Guy Cinema: First Blood Wed, 7:00pm
Action Pack: Grandma's Boy Quote-Along! Thu (12/27), 10:00pm
***The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey** (3-D): Fri, 11:45am, 3:00, 4:00, 7:45, 11:35pm; Sat, 11:30am, 3:25, 7:30, 11:15pm; Sun, 10:30am, 2:30, 6:35, 10:30pm; Mon, noon, 2:00, 6:00, 10:00; Tue-Wed, 2:00, 3:00, 6:00, 10:00; Thu (12/27), 2:00, 2:55, 6:00, 10:25
QT Retropective: Kill Bill: Vol. 1 Sun, 9:45pm; Mon, 10:15pm
QT Retropective: Kill Bill: Vol. 2 Tue, 7:00pm
Tom Schiller Live: Nothing Lasts Forever Sun, 7:00pm
Terror Tuesday: Silent Night, Deadly Night: Part 2 Tue, 10:30pm
Weird Wednesday: Surprise Film Wed, 10:30pm; Mon, 11:45am,
Broadway Brunch: White Christmas Sat-Sun, 1:00pm

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE LAKE CREEK 13729 Research, 219-5408. Showtimes at this venue are subject to frequent change. Please confirm daily by phone or website.
***Django Unchained** Tue, 10:55am, 3:45, 7:15, 9:35pm; Wed, 9:40am, 12:40, 2:30, 7:05, 10:50pm; Thu (12/27), 9:40am, 12:40, 2:30, 7:15, 10:50pm
***The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey** (3-D): Fri, 11:45am, 2:10, 3:15, 6:00, 7:05, 9:55pm; Sat, 10:10am, 2:10, 3:30, 6:00, 7:40, 9:55, 10:10pm; Sun, 12:05, 2:10, 3:55, 6:00, 7:40, 10:10; Mon, 12:55, 2:45, 3:10, 6:05, Tue, 11:50am, 2:45, 7:30pm; Wed-Thu (12/27), 10:40am, 2:45, 3:45pm
***The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (3-D)** Fri, 10:35am, 2:25, 6:15, 9:05pm; Sat-Sun, 11:45am, 2:45, 6:15, 9:05pm; Mon, 11:45am, 4:00, 6:15pm; Tue, 9:20pm; Wed-Thu (12/27), 7:30, 8:55
***Jack Reacher** Fri, 10:50am, 12:05, 3:35, 6:45, 11:00pm; Sat-Sun, 10:50am, 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:00pm; Mon, 9:45am, 11:40, 2:50, 7:00pm; Tue, 11:35am, 4:20, 6:30, 10:45pm; Wed-Thu (12/27), 10:35am, 12:30, 3:40, 7:45, 10:15pm
***Les Misérables** Tue, 12:05, 12:45, 2:25, 4:00, 6:00, 6:15, 9:45, 10:25; Wed-Thu (12/27), 11:55am, 12:20, 3:40, 6:00, 6:45, 9:10, 9:40pm
***Life of Pi** Fri, 4:25, 10:50pm; Sat, 2:00, 10:35; Sun, 4:10, 10:35; Mon, 9:40am, 7:30pm
Monsters, Inc. (3-D) Fri, 9:30am; Sat-Sun, 11:30pm
***Monsters, Inc. (3-D)** Fri, 1:20, 3:55, 6:30, 10:05; Sat, 9:30am, 12:05, 3:35, 6:30pm; Sun, 9:35am, 12:10, 3:35, 6:30pm; Mon, 10:50am, 1:25, 3:35, 7:45pm; Tue, 10:45am, 1:25, 4:15, 6:45, 11:15pm; Wed-Thu (12/27), 9:45am, 1:10, 3:50, 6:20, 11:15pm
Kids' Camp: The Muppet Christmas Carol Fri, 11:00am; Sat-Thu (12/27), 10:00am
***Parental Guidance** Tue, 10:50am, 1:30, 3:35, 7:45, 9:40pm; Wed-Thu (12/27), 10:00am, 1:45, 4:05, 6:30, 10:55pm
***Rise of the Guardians** Fri, 10:30am, 1:25, 7:20pm; Sat, 9:35am, 1:30, 5:10, 7:25pm; Sun, 10:00am, 1:30, 7:25pm; Mon, 12:30, 4:40, 7:15
***Skyfall** Fri, 9:55am, 1:05, 4:00, 7:30, 10:00pm; Sat, 10:00am, 12:10, 4:05, 7:15, 10:05pm; Sun, 10:00am, 12:40, 4:05, 7:15, 10:55pm; Mon, 11:10am, 12:45, 4:10, 6:25pm

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE SLAUGHTER LANE 5701 W. Slaughter Lane, 476-1320. Showtimes at this venue are subject to frequent change. Please confirm daily times by phone or website. Call theatre for Dec. 24-27 showtimes.
Action Pack: Christmas Pops Sing-Along Sat, 10:00pm
Hitchcock Fri, 3:15, 4:40, 7:45, 10:20pm
***The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey** Fri-Sun, 10:00am, 1:50, 5:40, 9:30pm
***The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (3-D)** Fri, 10:50am, 2:40, 6:30, 10:20pm
***Jack Reacher** Fri-Sun, 10:00am, 1:10, 4:25, 6:50, 10:55pm
***Killing Them Softly** Fri, 6:00, 11:20; Sat-Sun, 3:20, 8:40
***Life of Pi** Fri, 2:50, 9:30; Sat, 3:05, 10:00; Sun, 3:05, 9:30
***Life of Pi (3-D)** Fri-Sun, 12:45, 7:20
***Lincoln** Fri, 11:00am, 2:30, 6:15, 9:50pm; Sat, 11:35am, 2:20, 6:00, 9:30pm; Sun, 11:35am, 2:20, 6:15, 9:50pm
Kid Party: The Polar Express Fri, 11:00am
***Skyfall** Fri, 11:05am, 3:55, 6:00, 10:30pm; Sat, 10:50am, 3:55, 6:15, 10:30pm; Sun, 10:50am, 3:55, 6:00, 10:30pm
***This Is 40** Fri, 12:15, 3:30, 7:40, 10:05; Sat, 12:15, 3:30, 7:40, 9:40; Sun, 12:15, 3:30, 7:40, 10:05

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE SOUTH LAMAR 1120 S. Lamar, 707-8262. Showtimes at this venue are subject to frequent change. Please confirm daily by phone or website.
Action Pack: The Big Lebowski Quote-Along! Mon, 10:00pm
Kids' Camp: Ernest Saves Christmas Fri-Tue, 11:30am; Wed-Thu (12/27), 10:00am
Tough Guy Cinema: First Blood Sat, 10:00pm
Man Crush: The Fugitive Tue (12/27), 7:00pm
***The Guilt Trip** Fri, 11:15am, 1:50, 3:45, 6:20, 10:25pm; Sat, 11:15am, 1:50, 3:45, 6:20, 10:30pm; Sun, 11:15am, 1:50, 3:45, 6:20, 10:25pm; Mon, 10:45am, 2:20, 3:50, 7:50pm; Tue-Wed, 1:50, 4:45, 10:45; Thu (12/27), 10:20am, 12:55, 4:45, 6:45, 11:05pm
***The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey** Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 1:00, 3:00, 7:00, 8:55, 10:55pm; Mon, 11:00am, 1:15, 3:30, 7:00pm; Tue-Wed, 2:35, 10:15; Thu (12/27), 2:15, 9:55
***The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (3-D)** Fri, 2:05, 6:00, 9:55; Sat, 2:05, 6:00, 9:55; Mon, 10:40am, 2:05, 6:00pm; Tue-Wed, 12:55, 7:20; Thu (12/27), 12:50, 7:20
Holy Motors Fri-Sun, 4:55, 7:40; Mon, 5:00, 9:25
***Les Misérables** Tue-Wed, 12:15, 2:15, 6:40, 9:00, 6:40; Thu (12/27), 10:45am, 3:30, 6:25, 9:35pm
***Lincoln** Fri, noon, 3:20, 6:45, 10:15; Sat, noon, 3:20, 6:45, 10:20; Sun, noon, 3:20, 6:45, 10:15; Mon, 12:20, 4:05, 7:25
***Silver Linings Playbook** Fri, 12:45, 4:25, 7:25, 10:35; Sat, 12:45, 4:25, 7:25, 10:30, 12:45, 4:25, 7:25, 10:35; Mon, 1:00, 4:40, 7:40; Tue-Wed, 11:00am, 3:45, 7:45, 11:00pm; Thu (12/27), noon, 3:15, 7:45, 9:20

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE VILLAGE 2700 W. Anderson, 459-7090. Tuesday matinee Baby Day shows (first show of the day) are intended for parents and their children younger than 6. Showtimes at this venue are subject to frequent change. Please confirm daily times by phone or website.
Action Pack: Christmas Pops Sing-Along Fri, 12mid
Kids' Camp: The Santa Clause 10:00am
***Skyfall** Fri-Sun, 11:20am, 2:55, 6:30, 10:00pm; Mon, 11:20am, 2:55, 6:30pm
***This Is 40** Fri-Sun, 12:10, 3:35, 7:00, 10:25; Mon, 12:10, 3:35, 7:00; Tue-Thu (12/27), 11:00am, 2:25, 6:00, 10:20pm

ARBOR CINEMA @ GREAT HILLS 9828 Great Hills Trail (at Jollyville), 231-9742. Discounts daily before 6pm.
Anna Karenina Fri-Sun, 12:10, 3:50, 7:00, 10:00; Mon, 12:40, 3:50, 7:00; Tue-Thu (12/27), 12:40, 3:50, 7:10, 10:20
Hitchcock Fri-Sun, 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:15; Mon, 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40; Tue-Thu (12/27), 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:15
Hyde Park on Hudson Fri-Sun, 5:00, 7:30, 9:40, 5:00, 6:50, 7:30, 10:05; Mon, noon, 2:30, 3:40, 5:00, 6:50, 7:30; Tue-Thu (12/27), noon, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:05

***Les Misérables** Tue-Thu (12/27), 11:40am, 12:30, 3:15, 4:15, 7:00, 8:00pm
Lincoln Fri-Sun, 11:50am, 12:50, 3:10, 4:10, 6:40, 8:00, 9:55pm; Mon, 11:50am, 12:50, 3:10, 4:10, 6:40pm; Tue-Thu (12/27), 11:50am, 12:50, 3:30, 4:30, 6:50, 8:10, 10:10pm
The Other Son Fri-Sun, 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20; Mon, 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50
Silver Linings Playbook Fri-Sun, 12:30, 1:00, 4:00, 7:20, 9:30, 10:15; Mon, 12:30, 1:00, 4:00, 7:20; Tue-Thu (12/27), 12:20, 3:40, 7:20, 10:15

BARTON CREEK SQUARE (AMC) Barton Creek Square mall, MoPac & Highway 360, 888/AMC-4FUN. Matinee discounts available before 4pm daily. Bring Your Baby matinees the first Tuesday of every month.
***Argo Unchained (digital)** Tue-Thu (12/27), 9:45am, 12:45, 4:20, 8:00, 11:05pm
***The Guilt Trip (digital)** Fri-Sun, 10:00am, 12:20, 2:50, 5:25, 8:00, 10:30pm; Mon, 10:00am, 12:20, 2:40, 5:10, 7:30, 10:40pm
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (3-D) Fri, 10:35am, 2:20, 5:20, 6:00, 11:20pm; Sat, 9:50am, 10:35, 1:40, 2:20, 5:20, 6:00, 9:50, 11:20pm; Sun, 10:00am, 1:40, 2:20, 5:20, 6:00, 9:50, 11:20pm; Mon, 9:50am, 10:35, 1:40, 2:20, 5:20, 6:00, 9:00pm
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (digital) Fri-Sun, 12:30, 4:20, 8:00, 9:00; Mon, 12:30, 4:20, 8:00, 9:40
***The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (3-D, IMAX)** Fri-Sun, 11:20am, 3:05, 6:55, 10:45pm; Mon, 11:20am, 3:05, 6:55, 10:35pm
***Jack Reacher (digital)** Fri-Sat, 9:55am, 12:55, 4:05, 7:10, 10:15pm; Sun, 9:50am, 12:55, 4:05, 7:10, 10:15pm; Mon, 9:55am, 12:55, 4:05, 7:10, 10:20pm
***Les Misérables (digital)** Mon, 10:00pm; Tue-Thu (12/27), 9:45am, 12:25, 4:00, 7:30, 10:45pm
***Life of Pi (3-D)** Fri-Sat, 10:40am, 1:45, 4:45, 7:50, 10:45pm; Sun, 1:45, 4:45, 7:50, 10:45; Mon, 10:40am, 1:45, 4:45, 7:50pm
Lincoln (CC, digital) Fri-Sat, 12:40, 4:00, 7:20, 10:40; Sun, 12:45, 4:00, 7:20, 10:40; Mon, 12:45, 4:00, 7:20, 10:35
***Monsters, Inc. (3-D)** Fri-Sun, 9:45am, 12:10, 2:40, 5:05, 7:35, 10:00pm; Mon, 9:45am, 12:20, 2:40, 5:05, 7:30, 9:40pm; Tue-Thu (12/27), 9:45am, 12:05, 2:40, 5:05, 7:30, 10:00pm
***Parental Guidance (digital)** Mon, 10:00pm; Tue-Thu (12/27), 10:00am, 12:35, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30pm
***Rise of the Guardians (digital)** Fri-Sun, 10:25am, 12:50, 3:20, 5:45, 8:10, 10:35pm; Mon, 10:00am, 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20pm
***Silver Linings Playbook (digital)** Fri-Sun, 11:30am, 2:30, 5:35, 8:20, 11:10pm; Mon, 11:30am, 2:30, 5:15, 8:00, 10:45pm
***Skyfall (digital)** Fri-Sun, 9:50am, 1:05, 4:25, 7:40, 10:50pm; Mon, 9:50am, 1:05, 4:25, 7:40, 10:45pm
***This Is 40 (CC, digital)** Sat, 7:45, 10:55
***This Is 40 (digital)** Fri, 10:10am, 1:25, 4:35, 7:45, 10:55pm; Sat, 10:10am, 1:25, 4:35pm; Sun, 10:10am, 1:25, 4:35, 7:45, 10:55pm; Mon, 10:10am, 1:25, 4:35, 7:45, 10:45pm; Tue-Thu (12/27), 10:15am, 1:25, 4:35, 7:45, 10:55pm
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Down - Part 2 (digital) Fri-Sun, noon, 5:35; Mon, 11:00am, 4:20pm
***Wreck-It Ralph (digital)** Fri-Sun, 9:50am, 2:55, 8:15pm; Mon, 9:50am, 1:40, 7:00pm

CINEMARK CEDAR PARK 1335 E. Whitestone, 800/FANDANGO.
Django Unchained (digital) Tue, 10:40am, 2:20, 6:10, 10:00pm
The Guilt Trip (digital) Fri-Sun, 1:40, 4:10, 7:00, 9:30; Mon, 1:40, 4:10, 7:00, Tue, 1:40, 4:10, 7:00, 9:30
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (3-D) Fri-Sun, 10:30am, 11:30, 2:20, 5:30, 7:40, 10:10pm; Mon, 11:30am, 11:30, 2:30, 6:30pm; Tue, 10:30am, 11:30, 2:30, 6:30, 4:40, 10:10pm
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (digital) Fri-Sun, 12:20, 3:20, 4:30, 8:30; Mon, 12:20, 3:20, 4:30; Tue, 12:20, 3:20, 4:30, 8:30
Jack Reacher (digital) Fri-Sun, 12:10, 3:30, 6:40, 10:00; Mon, 12:10, 3:30, 6:40; Tue, 12:10, 3:30, 6:40, 10:00
Les Misérables (digital) Tue-Thu (12/27), 11:00am, 2:40, 6:20, 10:00pm
Life of Pi (3-D) Fri-Mon, 1:00, 6:50
Lincoln (digital) Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 2:40, 6:20, 9:50pm; Mon, 11:00am, 2:40, 6:20pm; Tue, 11:00am, 2:40, 6:20, 9:50pm
Monsters, Inc. (3-D) Fri-Sun, 10:00am, 3:00, 10:30pm; Mon, 10:00am, 3:00pm; Tue, 10:00am, 3:00, 10:30pm
Monsters, Inc. (3-D, digital) Fri-Sun, 12:30, 5:30, 8:00; Mon, 12:30, 5:30; Tue, 12:30, 5:30, 8:00
Ballet: The Nutcracker Sun, noon
Red Dawn (digital) Fri-Sat, noon, 5:00, 10:20; Sun, 5:00, 10:20; Mon, noon, 5:00
Rise of the Guardians (digital) Fri-Sun, 11:40am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:10, 9:40pm; Mon, 11:40am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:10pm; Tue, 11:40am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:10, 9:40pm
Skyfall (digital) Fri-Sun, 11:20am, 2:50, 6:10, 9:20pm; Mon, 11:20am, 2:50, 6:10pm; Tue, 11:20am, 2:50, 6:10, 9:20pm
Rise of the Guardians (3-D) Fri-Mon, 1:50, 7:30
This Is 40 (digital) Fri-Sun, 10:00am, 1:25, 4:40pm; Mon, 10:00am, 1:25, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40pm
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Down - Part 2 (digital) Fri-Sat, 2:20, 7:20; Sun, 7:20pm; Mon, 2:20, 7:20
Wreck-It Ralph (digital) Fri-Sun, 10:20am, 4:00, 9:40pm; Mon, 10:20am, 4:00pm

CINEMARK HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA 14 12812 Hill Country Blvd., 800/FANDANGO.
Call theatre for Dec. 25-27 showtimes.
Argo (digital) Fri-Mon, 1:25, 7:10
The Guilt Trip (digital) Fri-Sun, 10:45am, 1:35, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45pm; Mon, 10:45am, 1:35, 4:15, 7:00pm
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (3-D) Fri-Sun, 10:30am, 12:30, 2:20, 4:20, 5:20, 6:15, 8:15, 10:00pm; Mon, 10:30am, 12:30, 2:20, 4:20, 5:20, 6:15, 8:00pm
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (digital) Fri-Sun, 11:30am, 1:30, 3:20, 7:15, 9:15pm; Mon, 11:30am, 1:30, 3:20, 7:15pm
Jack Reacher (digital) Fri-Sun, noon, 3:30, 6:55, 10:15; Mon, noon, 3:30, 6:55
Les Misérables (digital) Tue, 2:45, 6:30, 10:10; Wed-Thu (12/27), 11:05am, 2:45, 6:30, 10:10pm
Life of Pi (digital) Fri-Mon, 1:45, 7:45
Lincoln (digital) Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 2:30, 6:05, 9:30pm; Mon, 11:00am, 2:30, 6:05pm
Monsters, Inc. (3-D) Fri-Sun, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 9:55; Mon, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20
Monsters, Inc. (3-D, digital) Fri-Mon, 11:20am
Red Dawn (digital) Fri-Sun, 10:50am, 4:30, 10:10pm; Mon, 10:50am, 4:30pm
Rise of the Guardians (3-D) Fri-Mon, 1:50, 7:30
Rise of the Guardians (digital) Fri-Sun, 11:05am, 5:10, 10:40pm; Mon, 11:05am, 5:10pm
Skyfall (digital) Fri-Sun, 11:50am, 3:10, 6:45, 10:05pm; Mon, 11:50am, 3:10, 6:45pm
This Is 40 (digital) Fri-Sun, 12:15, 3:40, 7:05, 10:20; Mon, 12:15, 3:40, 7:05
Wreck-It Ralph (digital) Fri-Sun, 11:10am, 2:10, 5:00, 7:55, 10:30pm; Mon, 11:10am, 2:10, 5:00, 7:55pm

CINEMARK MOVIES 8 ROUND ROCK 2120 N. Mays, Round Rock, 512/388-2848. Discounts daily before 5pm.
End of Watch (digital) Fri-Sun, 10:30am, 1:15, 4:00, 7:00, 9:45pm; Tue, 7:15, Tue, 4:10, 7:15, 10:10; Wed-Thu (12/27), 1:30, 4:10, 7:15, 10:10
Frankenweenie (3-D) Tue, 7:10
Frankenweenie (digital) Fri-Sun, 11:15am, 4:30, 9:20pm; Mon, 11:15am, 4:30pm; Tue, 4:30, 9:20; Wed-Thu (12/27), 11:15am, 4:30, 9:20pm
Here Comes the Boon (digital) Fri-Sun, 10:30am, 1:15, 4:00, 7:00, 9:45pm; Mon, 10:30am, 1:15, 4:00, 7:00pm; Tue, 1:15, 4:00, 7:00, 9:45; Wed-Thu (12/27), 10:30am, 1:15, 4:00, 7:00, 9:45pm
Hotel Transylvania (3-D) Fri-Sun, 11:30am, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:00pm; Mon, 11:30am, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45pm; Tue, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:00; Wed-Thu (12/27), 11:30am, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:00pm

Hotel Transylvania (digital) Fri-Sun, 10:15am, 1:00, 3:30, 6:30, 9:15pm; Mon, 10:15am, 1:00, 3:30, 6:30pm; Tue, 1:00, 3:30, 6:30, 9:15; Wed-Thu (12/27), 10:15am, 1:00, 3:30, 6:30, 9:15pm
ParaNorman (3-D) Fri-Mon, 12:15, 3:45; Tue, 3:45pm; Wed-Thu (12/27), 12:15, 3:45
Pitch Perfect (digital) Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 1:45, 4:20, 7:30, 10:05pm; Mon, 11:00am, 1:45, 4:20, 7:30pm; Tue, 1:45, 4:20, 7:30, 10:05; Wed-Thu (12/27), 11:00am, 1:45, 4:20, 7:30, 10:05pm
Take 2 (digital) Fri-Sun, noon, 2:30, 5:15, 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 10:15; Mon, noon, 2:30, 5:15, 7:00, 8:00; Tue, 2:30, 5:15, 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 10:15; Wed-Thu (12/27), noon, 2:30, 5:15, 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 10:15

CINEMARK ROUND ROCK 4401 N. I-35, Round Rock, 800/FANDANGO. Cost for 3-D shows is regular ticket price plus a \$3.50 premium. Call theatre for Dec. 25-27 showtimes.
Flight (digital) Fri-Sun, 10:15am, 3:55, 9:35pm; Mon, 10:15am, 3:55pm
The Guilt Trip (digital) Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 1:25, 3:50, 6:15, 8:40pm; Mon, 11:00am, 1:25, 3:50, 6:15pm
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (3-D, CC) Fri-Sun, 10:30am, 11:50, 1:35, 2:05, 3:25, 5:45, 7:00, 8:50, 9:20, 10:35pm; Mon, 10:30am, 11:50, 1:35, 2:05, 3:25, 5:45, 7:00pm
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (digital) Fri-Sun, 10:00am, 11:05, 2:40, 5:15, 6:15, 9:50pm; Mon, 10:00am, 11:05, 2:40, 5:15, 6:15, 9:50pm
Jack Reacher (digital) Fri-Sun, 10:35am, 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40pm; Mon, 10:35am, 1:40, 4:40, 7:40pm
Les Misérables (digital) Tue-Wed, 11:00am, 2:30, 7:00, 10:30pm
Life of Pi (3-D) Fri-Sun, 1:45, 9:40; Mon, 6:45pm
Lincoln (digital) Fri-Sun, 11:55am, 2:30, 5:50, 9:30pm; Mon, 11:55am, 2:30, 5:50pm
Monsters, Inc. (3-D) Fri-Sun, 10:10am, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30pm; Mon, 10:10am, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00pm
Monsters, Inc. (3-D, digital) Fri-Mon, 12:35pm
Red Dawn (digital) Fri-Mon, 3:10, 7:05
Rise of the Guardians (digital) Fri-Sun, 10:05am, 12:30, 2:55, 5:20, 7:50, 10:15pm; Mon, 10:05am, 12:30, 2:55, 5:20, 7:50pm
This Is 40 (digital) Fri-Sun, 10:20am, 11:20, 1:20, 2:25, 4:20, 5:25, 7:20, 8:30, 10:20pm; Mon, 10:20am, 11:20, 1:20, 2:25, 4:20, 5:25, 7:20pm
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Down - Part 2 (digital) Fri-Sun, 10:25am, 1:10, 4:35, 7:25, 10:10pm; Mon, 10:25am, 1:10, 4:35, 7:25pm
Wreck-It Ralph (digital) Fri-Mon, 10:40am, 1:15, 4:00pm

CINEMARK SOUTH PARK MEADOWS 9900 S. I-35, 800/FANDANGO. Cost for 3-D shows is regular ticket price plus a \$3.50 premium. Call theatre for Dec. 25-27 showtimes.
The Guilt Trip (digital) Fri-Sun, 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:20; Mon, 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (3-D) Fri-Sun, 9:50am, 11:35, 1:30, 3:20, 4:15, 5:10, 7:00, 8:50, 10:40pm; Mon, 9:50am, 11:35, 1:30, 3:20, 4:15, 5:10, 7:00pm
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (digital) Fri-Sun, 10:45am, 12:35, 2:25, 6:15, 7:55, 9:55pm; Mon, 10:45am, 12:35, 2:25, 6:15, 7:55pm
Jack Reacher (digital) Fri-Sun, 9:55am, 1:00, 4:05, 7:10, 10:15pm; Mon, 9:55am, 1:00, 4:05, 7:10pm
Les Misérables (digital) Tue-Thu (12/27), noon, 3:30, 7:00, 10

FIRST RUNS

*Full-length reviews available online at austinchronicle.com. Dates at end of reviews indicate original publication date.

ALEX CROSS

D: Rob Cohen; with Tyler Perry, Edward Burns, Matthew Fox, Jean Reno, Rachel Nichols, Giancarlo Esposito, Cicely Tyson, Carmen Ejogo, John C. McGinley. (PG-13, 101 min.)

Based on the eponymous creation of James Patterson, *Alex Cross* is the third theatrical incarnation of the whip-smart FBI profiler played previously by Morgan Freeman. This time, however, the role is taken on by the hulking Tyler Perry, stepping far outside his *Madea* comfort zone. It's a courageous but misguided move; watching Perry display the gamut of emotions called for here is like watching the Hulk attempt *Swan Lake*. The film is a prequel of sorts: Cross is still a detective with the Detroit Police Department, trading strenuously overwritten buddy/pal banter with his partner Tommy Kane (Burns). Enter the sadistic, sinuously evil serial killer Picasso (Fox), who attracts Cross' attention, and vice versa. It's a mess, really, but a crowd-pleasing one. Perry's regular audience will follow him out on this creaking limb, no problem. Whether anyone will want to see him portray Patterson's profiler again, though, is another question. (10/19/2012)

★★★ – Marc Savlov
Millennium

ANNA KARENINA

D: Joe Wright; with Keira Knightley, Jude Law, Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Domhnall Gleeson, Matthew Macfadyen, Kelly Macdonald, Alicia Vikander, Ruth Wilson, Olivia Williams. (R, 129 min.)

In this bold but empty imagining of *Anna Karenina*, director Joe Wright sets the action mostly within the walls of a theatre: This world is, quite literally, all a stage. There is the sedate wife and mother Anna (Knightley), limply married to the fly-right bureaucrat Karenin (Law) and embarking for Moscow to save her brother's marriage to poor, put-upon Dolly (Macdonald). And there is the first acquaintance of doomed Anna and Count Vronsky (Taylor-Johnson), who tumble into an erotic liaison that will both ignite and ruin her. There is so much to compact here, and – forgive the schoolmarm aside – if you haven't yet enjoyed the source novel, then you should stop reading this right now and start reading that, because it truly is a transformative thing. Sadly, the complexity of Tolstoy's vision is only just skimmed here; this *Anna Karenina* provides no lasting illumination, only the fast-burn spitzing of bang snaps. (11/30/2012)

★★★ – Kimberley Jones
Arbor, Tinseltown South, Violet Crown

★ ARGO

D: Ben Affleck; with Ben Affleck, Bryan Cranston, Alan Arkin, John Goodman, Victor Garber, Tate Donovan, Clea DuVall, Scoot McNairy, Rory Cochrane, Christopher Denham, Kerry Bishé, Kyle Chandler, Chris Messina, Zeljko Ivanek, Richard Kind. (R, 120 min.)

Ben Affleck has reinvented himself as one of Hollywood's top-notch directors, and this third feature fully proves that the filmmaker knows what he is doing. *Argo* is a terrifically entertaining thriller that's based on a true-life incident. Latino CIA operative Tony Mendez (Affleck) has been called in to help six American embassy employees who managed to escape when their compound in Iran was taken over by Islamic fundamentalists on Nov. 4, 1979. As the CIA contemplates extraction, Mendez hatches a crazy plan: creating the cover of a location-scouting expedition for a science fiction movie called *Argo*. As we follow every step of the mission, Affleck's deft craftsmanship and casting instincts are on full display. Not allowing well enough to be, however, is the multiple-pronged coda, which slackens *Argo*'s taut pace to a crawl. But I can hear the filmmakers saying, in the cadence of the film's running joke, "Arrhh, go fuck yourself." (10/12/2012)

★★★★ – Marjorie Baumgarten
Hill Country Galleria, Gateway, Tinseltown South, Violet Crown, Westgate

END OF WATCH

D: David Ayer; with Jake Gyllenhaal, Michael Peña, Anna Kendrick, Cody Horn, America Ferrera, Frank Grillo, David Harbour. (R, 109 min.)

Screenwriter/Director David Ayer (*Training Day*, *Dark Blue*, *Street Kings*) has mastered the minutiae of the Los Angeles cop-movie subgenre better than anyone else I can think of. *End of Watch* might have

been yet another buddy-cop flick but for the obvious camaraderie between LAPD partners Zavala (Peña), who is married with kids, and Taylor (Gyllenhaal), a high-strung Marine fresh from Afghanistan. Ayer introduces us into their daily grind just after they've been tossed into the slipstream of violence and thugery that is Southeast L.A. following the shooting of a suspect. On the streets, Taylor videotapes cop life in a haltingly cinema verité style. (He's taking a film-making class and this is his project.) Interestingly, a group of hyperviolent gangbangers is wantonly running amok with their own cameras rolling. Eventually, the two sides, law and lawlessness, collide, and this being an Ayer film, the result isn't pretty, but it is wholly believable. (09/21/2012)

★★★ – Marc Savlov
Movies 8

FLIGHT

D: Robert Zemeckis; with Denzel Washington, Don Cheadle, Kelly Reilly, John Goodman, Bruce Greenwood, Brian Geraghty, Tamara Tunie, James Badge Dale, Peter Gerety, Melissa Leo. (R, 138 min.)

For the first half-hour, *Flight* keeps us rapt with thrilling action and a troubling moral quandary. But once things become more earthbound, the film reshapes itself into a standard substance-abuse story. A copious line of coke gets airline pilot Whip Whitaker (Washington) out the door and on the way to the airport. Suddenly, all your worst fears about pilots unfit to fly are staring you in the face. Yet, when his plane experiences massive mechanical failure, Whip manages to land via crazy, instinctive measures. He is indeed a hero, but he also had a .24 blood-alcohol level during the crash. Reconciling those facts is an interesting dilemma, and one that fuels the ensuing investigation. Director Zemeckis shows he still has a vivid visual sensibility and a finger on the zeitgeist. But *Flight*'s pat closing sequence leaves nothing up in the air and returns all tray tables to their full, upright positions. (11/02/2012)

★★★ – Marjorie Baumgarten
CM Round Rock, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

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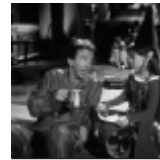


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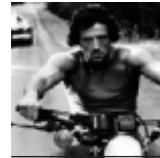
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DIE HARD
December 21, 22, 24 @ Ritz
DIE HARD is the ultimate Holiday film that brings us all together & makes us give thanks at the alter of Bruce Willis for making us believe in the heroic acts of one awesome, badass man.



Tough Guy Cinema
FIRST BLOOD IN 35 MM!
Dec. 22 @ Lamar & Dec. 26 @ Ritz
In honor of the film's 30th anniversary, we present a special holiday engagement of this free-wheelin', gun-totin', law-fightin' post-ROCKY masterpiece!



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WHITE CHRISTMAS
December 22 & 23 @ Ritz
The duo Irving Berlin, of the darling of musical cinema, & Bing Crosby makes this musical, part love story, part Christmas fable, one of Hollywood's very best.



Cinephile
NOTHING LAST FOREVER WITH TOM SCHILLER
Sun, December 23 @ Ritz
Writer/director Tom Schiller will be in attendance for this rare 35mm screening of indisputably one of the most vivacious & inventive films of our lifetimes!



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Thurs, December 27 @ Ritz
We're bringing back this highly requested stoner classic in quote-along form. If that doesn't make you smile you must be un-high.



Man Crush
THE FUGITIVE
Thurs, December 27 @ Ritz
Along with the hunky Harrison Ford this film has pretty much every bonus factor imaginable: big explosions, daring heroics, scintillating intrigue and Tommy Lee Jones.

ALSO SCREENING: New Releases: *Monsters Inc. 3D*, *Hitchcock*, *Jack Reacher*, *This is 40*, *The Guilt Trip*, *Django Unchained*, *Les Misérables* » Big Screen Classics: *A Christmas Story* (12/21-23) » Master Pancake: *X-Mas Show* (12/21, 22) » X-Mas Pops (12/21, 22) » Rocky Horror (12/22) » QT Retrospective: *Kill Bill 1* (12/23) » Elf Quote-Along (12/24, 25, 27) » Terror Tues: *Silent Night Deadly Part 2* (12/25) » Weird Weds: *Surprise Title!* (12/26)

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Kill Bill: Vol. 1

D: Quentin Tarantino; with Uma Thurman, Lucy Liu, Vivica A. Fox, Michael Madsen, Daryl Hannah, David Carradine, Sonny Chiba. (2003, R, 110 min.) **QT Retrospective.** Quentin Tarantino goes into overdrive with this story about the bride who was left for dead on her wedding day and seeks revenge against them that done her wrong. (*) @Alamo Ritz, Sunday, 9:45pm; Monday, 10:15pm.



★ FRANKENWEENIE

D: Tim Burton; with the voices of Charlie Tahan, Martin Short, Catherine O'Hara, Martin Landau, Winona Ryder, Atticus Shaffer, Robert Capron, Conchata Ferrell, James Hiroyuki Liao, Tom Kenny. (PG, 87 min.)
Finally, a stop-motion, animated Halloween film that rivals *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. And of the two – simmer down now, gothlings – *Frankenweenie* is the ookier, more assured, and frankly better film. Filmed in glorious black and white, *Frankenweenie* is that rare film that's both kid- and adult-friendly. The titular weenie here is Sparky, a manic little bull terrier and best pal to young Victor Frankenstein (Tahan). When Sparky is killed by a car, Victor seizes on the lessons he's learned about electricity's life-giving force and, before you can say "Boris Karloff's real name was William Henry Prattl!", a stitched-and-neck-bolted Sparky is re-animated and running around Vincent's attic laboratory. Comedy and tension, complete with torch- and pitchfork-wielding villagers, follows. Wholly unique yet strangely familiar, *Frankenweenie* is, at its electrified heart, a story about friendship, family, and the importance of kidhood perseverance. Never say die when you could be saying "It's alive!" (10/05/2012)
★★★★ – Marc Savlov
Movies 8

HERE COMES THE BOOM

D: Frank Coraci; with Kevin James, Salma Hayek, Henry Winkler, Greg Germann, Joe Rogan, Gary Valentine, Charice, Bas Rutten, Reggie Lee. (PG, 105 min.)
When high school biology teacher and all-around sad sack Scott Voss (James) learns that his cash-strapped employers are contemplating cutting the school's music program – taught by Scott's elderly wise-guy pal Marty (Winkler) – he dives into the world of mixed martial arts to help save the music. If that synopsis sounds asinine as opposed to inspiring, you've hit this mug right on the kisser. *Here Comes the Bomb* would've been a more fitting title. Between Scott's puppy-dog pining for school nurse Bella (Hayek), the evil machinations of the school principal (Germann), and the actual fight scenes of Scott, *Here Comes the Boom* hits every dopey note in the "save the school" subgenre playbook. I just can't help but wonder how many real-world high school music and arts programs could have been saved from extinction by simply not making this movie and donating the film's budget to actual schools in need. (10/19/2012)
★ – Marc Savlov
Movies 8

HITCHCOCK

D: Sacha Gervasi; with Anthony Hopkins, Helen Mirren, Scarlett Johansson, Danny Huston, Toni Collette, Michael Stuhlbarg, Michael Wincott, Jessica Biel, James D'Arcy. (PG-13, 98 min.)
Alfred Hitchcock, the undisputed master of movie suspense, is given fairly fanciful treatment in this movie, which is theoretically based on Stephen Rebello's book, *Alfred Hitchcock and the Making of 'Psycho'*. Yet, as directed by Sacha Gervasi, this film is more a love story about the marriage between Hitchcock (Anthony Hopkins) and his wife, Alma

Reville (Helen Mirren), than a historically accurate backstage look at the making of this important movie. Portraying Hitchcock, Hopkins puts in a good effort, but rarely convinces completely. Still, the film's discrepancies would be barely noticeable if *Hitchcock* provided a more absorbing glimpse of the making of *Psycho*. Long after his death, Hitchcock's contradictions continue to hold us in his sway. Both a consummate showman and a savvy artist, Hitchcock can be all things to all people. But the lovelorn Hitchcock of this film's fantasies would be better off left on the cutting-room floor. (12/07/2012)
★★★ – Marjorie Baumgarten
Alamo Slaughter Lane, Arbor, Metropolitan, Violet Crown

THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY

D: Peter Jackson; with Ian McKellen, Martin Freeman, Richard Armitage, Andy Serkis, Graham McTavish, Ken Stott, Stephen Hunter, Hugo Weaving, Cate Blanchett, Christopher Lee, Barry Humphries. (PG-13, 166 min.)
All aboard: The Middle-earth Express has once more pulled into the station. Though this initial offering in the planned trilogy of J.R.R. Tolkien's 1937 fantasy novel feels regrettably slight in terms of narrative adventure and fantasy revelations, that hasn't prevented director Peter Jackson from painting Middle-earth with abundant visual detail and technical bravura. *The Hobbit* introduces us to a few new creatures – trolls, the dragon Smaug – and old ones, too – Gollum (Serkis) reappears, creepy and deranged as ever – but the hobbit Bilbo Baggins (Freeman), the wizard Gandalf (McKellen), and an indistinguishable clump of 13 good-natured, hairy-headed dwarves are the primary protagonists here. To sum it up, there is little that is unexpected in *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*. Rather than an epic continuation of Jackson's Middle-earth obsession, the film seems more like the work of a man driving around a multilevel parking garage, unable to find the exit. (12/14/2012)

★★★ – Marjorie Baumgarten
Alamo Ritz, Alamo Lake Creek, Alamo Slaughter Lane, Alamo South Lamar, Alamo Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Flix Brewhouse, Highland, Galaxy Moviehouse, Gateway, IMAX Theatre, iPic, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

★ HOLY MOTORS

D: Leos Carax; with Denis Lavant, Edith Scob, Eva Mendes, Kylie Minogue, Elise Lhomeau, Michel Piccoli, Jeanne Disson. (NR, 115 min., subtitled)
This anarchic new film from France's enfant terrible of the cinema is the most intrepid and madcap movie to hit our shores in some time. Yet for all its disruptive energy, *Holy Motors* is also a thing of sublime beauty. The film's central figure is Monsieur Oscar (Lavant), who is driven around Paris via limousine to various "appointments," each stop requiring a different dramatic disguise. At one "appointment" he appears as a hunched beggar woman; at another

Nothing Lasts Forever

D: Tom Schiller; with Zach Galligan, Apollonia van Ravenstein, Bill Murray. (1984, PG, 80 min.) **Tom Schiller Live.** This surreal comedy was made by *Saturday Night Live* people and includes appearances by Dan Aykroyd, Imogene Coca, Mort Sahl, Sam Jaffe, Eddie Fisher, Lawrence Tierney, and Calvert DeForest (aka Larry "Bud" Melman). Curiously, it was never released. Director Tom Schiller will be on hand to explain. See "Turns Out the Title Wasn't Prophetic," Screens, p. 41 for more on the film. @Alamo Ritz, Sunday, 7pm.



First Blood

D: Ted Kotcheff; with Sylvester Stallone, Richard Crenna, Brian Dennehy, Bill McKinney, Jack Starrett. (1982, R, 94 min.) **Tough Guy Cinema.** Sylvester Stallone's personal print of this first Rambo film will be screened. Director Ted Kotcheff will conduct a Q&A via Skype after the screening on Wednesday, Dec. 26. @Alamo South Lamar, Saturday, 10pm; Alamo Ritz, Wednesday, 7pm.



he transforms into a mad goat of a man who knocks people over, munches on flowers, and dresses a high-fashion model in a burka. On it goes late into the night: scenes contrast and accumulate, building a sense of total surrealism. *Holy Motors* is as individualistic a movie as you're likely to encounter. Warmth and humor abide within its every frame, but you must find the key within yourself to unlock the mysteries. (12/07/2012)

★★★★ – Marjorie Baumgarten
Alamo South Lamar

HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA

D: Genndy Tartakovsky; with the voices of Adam Sandler, Kevin James, Andy Samberg, Selena Gomez, Fran Drescher, Steve Buscemi, Molly Shannon, David Spade, CeeLo Green, Jon Lovitz. (PG, 91 min.)
Throwing a bunch of Universal classic monster archetypes into an animated film and then using a generic coming-of-age, father-daughter relationship as the linchpin might've seemed like a good idea on paper, but onscreen Tartakovsky's *Hotel Transylvania* is as generically vacant as Mrs. Bates' eye sockets. The 118th birthday of Dracula's daughter, Mavis (voiced by Gomez), has finally arrived and the over-protective Drac (Sandler), now the manager of the "for monsters only" Hotel Transylvania, wants to keep her under his wing forever. But, when Jonathan (Samberg), a lost human backpacker, stumbles stonily into the hotel, love passes between the vampire's daughter and the displaced skater dude, much to Drac's chagrin. Not a whole lot ensues that you haven't already figured out on your own. Universal should sue for damages to the reputation of its classic movie monsters. As for *Hotel Transylvania*, no need to put a stake in it – it's deadly dull already. (09/28/2012)

✶ – Marc Savlov
Movies 8, Tinseltown South

KILLING THEM SOFTLY

D: Andrew Dominik; with Brad Pitt, Scoot McNairy, Ben Mendelsohn, Richard Jenkins, James Gandolfini, Ray Liotta, Vincent Curatola, Sam Shepard. (R, 97 min.)
If words could kill, few characters would be left standing at the end of *Killing Them Softly*. Andrew Dominik's movie is a crime film in which spurts of action occasionally puncture calm and sustained scenes of dialogue and character display. Based on the novel *Cogan's Trade* by George V. Higgins, *Killing Them Softly* moves the novel's Boston locale to New Orleans in 2008, but the portrait of the crime-world underbelly as a self-sustaining, self-policing society remains the same. The mob is structured like a corporation, with a nameless functionary (Richard Jenkins) serving as the middleman who hires the hit man, Jackie (Brad Pitt). The boarded-up, empty streets of post-Katrina New Orleans provide an Anywasteland, USA, vibe that enhances the idea of *Killing Them Softly* as a metaphor for the U.S. economic system in distress. Unfortunately, Dominik's ideas get the better of his creative handiwork, and the film suffers for it. (11/30/2012)
★★★ – Marjorie Baumgarten

Alamo Slaughter Lane, Tinseltown South

★ LIFE OF PI

D: Ang Lee; with Suraj Sharma, Irrfan Khan, Rafe Spall, Tabu, Adil Hussain, Gérard Depardieu. (PG, 125 min.)
Demonstrating a delicate mastery of 3-D, Ang Lee has made a movie that had me in its visual thrall even before the opening credits were through. Soon, however, the magical spell lifts and the film clunks toward Earth as a man nicknamed Pi (Irrfan Khan) promises to tell a character called the Writer (Rafe Spall) a story that will make him "believe in God." Setting aside the story's fuzzy theological concerns, *Life of Pi*, which is adapted from Yann Martel's best-selling novel, is extraordinarily accomplished. The story is gripping, and when adrift with teenage Pi (Suraj Sharma) and the Bengal tiger on the open sea, the film is at its most wondrous: a ravishing spectacle that treads judiciously on the infinite line between what's possible and impossible. *Life of Pi*, ironically, soars when it confines itself to land and sea; when it grasps for the celestial, the film goes beyond its reach. (11/23/2012)

★★★ – Marjorie Baumgarten
Alamo Lake Creek, Alamo Slaughter Lane, Alamo Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

LINCOLN

D: Steven Spielberg; with Daniel Day-Lewis, Sally Field, David Strathairn, Tommy Lee Jones, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Hal Holbrook, James Spader, John Hawkes, Gloria Reuben, Lee Pace, Tim Blake Nelson, Jared Harris. (PG-13, 149 min.)
Adapted from historian Doris Kearns Goodwin's *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*, Spielberg's film stitches together history lesson and TV procedural in its detailing of Lincoln's struggle to abolish slavery. First and certainly foremost: Master shape-shifter Daniel Day-Lewis delivers a monumental performance. He inhabits the character bodily and temperamentally, too, as he shifts to present different angles on the storied president, from formidable politician to keen wit, devoted father, and unhappy husband. On the subject of the latter: *Lincoln*, for all its grand-canvas ambitions, is at its chewiest when dramatizing Lincoln's relationship with his nervous wife Mary (Field). But the bygone manner of speaking – formal and florid – doesn't come easily to all the actors, and the result is like an inferior Shakespeare production: The mouths are moving, but the eyes don't always connect with the meaning. No worries, Spielberg's gonna spell it out for you anyway. (11/16/2012)

★★★ – Kimberley Jones
Alamo Slaughter Lane, Alamo South Lamar, Arbor, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, iPic, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Violet Crown, Westgate

Man on a Mission: Richard Garriott's Road to the Stars

D: Mike Woolf. (2012, NR, 82 min.) **Austin Beerworks and Cuvee Coffee: Sputnik Beer Release.** This film is a behind-the-scenes documentary of Richard Garriott's quest to be the first second-generation astronaut in space and the actual journey. Reception begins at 6pm featuring small plates inspired by Sputnik, as well as one pint of Sputnik Beer and a coffee tasting. Director Mike Woolf will be in attendance. (*) @ Violet Crown, Thursday (12/20), 7pm.



MONSTERS, INC.

D: Lee Unkrich, David Silverman, Peter Docter; with the voices of Billy Crystal, John Goodman, James Coburn, Jennifer Tilly. (G, 92 min.)

This collaboration between animation behemoths Disney and Pixar is wildly entertaining and has now been retrofitted for 3-D. In the film, Goodman and Crystal supply the voices of goodhearted monsters on a mission to scare the bejesus out of tots (screams = energy to the power company in Monstropolis), and their interplay is both wacky and charming. The film is a funky little tone poem on the nature of friendship and reconciliation – with monsters. The animation is top-notch. (11/02/2001)

★★★★ – Marc Savlov
Alamo Lake Creek, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Flix Brewhouse, Highland, Galaxy Moviehouse, Gateway, iPic, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

THE OTHER SON

D: Lorraine Levy; with Emmanuelle Devos, Pascal Elbé, Jules Sitruk, Mehdi Dehbi, Areen Omari, Khalifa Natour. (PG-13, 105 min., subtitled)

Given the hackneyed premise of this French film (two baby boys – one Israeli, one Palestinian – are switched at birth), so many things could have gone wrong. But *The Other Son* is something of a triumph: Rather than a lighthearted morality tale, it is a serious, successful drama; and rather than a heavy-handed political allegory, it is a compellingly human story. Obviously, discovering the truth is devastating, to both the sons involved – Joseph (Sitruk) and Yacine (Dehbi) – and their families. This is especially true of the fathers (Elbé and Natour), although both mothers (Devos and Omari) open their hearts. Slowly, very slowly, the two boys begin to integrate into their new worlds without rejecting their old ones. Cinematically well-made, *The Other Son* is nevertheless workman-like. The actors are all excellent, the storytelling compassionate, and the overall sense one takes from the film is more humane than political. (12/14/2012)

★★★★ – Louis Black
Arbor

PARANORMAN

D: Chris Butler, Sam Fell; with the voices of Kodi Smit-McPhee, Tucker Albrizzi, Anna Kendrick, Casey Affleck. (PG, 96 min.)

Laika, the animation outfit behind 2009's *Coraline*, scores another one for the dark side with this endearingly sweet and spooky-ookie ode to the supernatural. Tweenage Norman (Smit-McPhee) can see dead people, but this doesn't bother him nearly as much as being bullied. In between hanging out with his (late) grandmother and watching horror movies, Norman spends time with his equally beleaguered pal, Neil (Albrizzi), dodging the slings and arrows of daily life and grooving on all thing ghoulie. Until, that is, his mad Uncle Penderghast (Goodman) informs Norman that only he can save his Salem-esque township from a long-dead witch's curse. Zombies, comedy, and a surprisingly touching dork/jock alliance ensue. Boasting candy-floss colors and a clever, terrific script, *ParaNorman*'s stoic, monster-movie geekery is spot-on, and the storyline never wavers from its boneyard-deep message: Being different from others is a great thing, no matter how many angry villagers are after you. (08/17/2012)

★★★★ – Marc Savlov
Movies 8

PITCH PERFECT

D: Jason Moore; with Anna Kendrick, Brittany Snow, Rebel Wilson, Skylar Astin, Ben Platt, Anna Camp, Adam DeVine. (PG-13, 112 min.)

If you're at all predisposed to the choreographed karaoke of *Glee*, the underdog schematics of teen competitions à la *Bring It On* or the *Step Up* cycle, and the hero-misfits of a John Hughes comedy, then this slight but sunny entertainment is something of an idiot-grin-maker. Anna Kendrick (age 27) and the reliably outré comic Rebel Wilson (age 26) stretch the limits of the imagination as members of an incoming college freshmen class. The perennially perky Kendrick plays Beca, a kohl-rimmed angerpuss who'd rather be mashing tracks than attending Intro to Psych. Still, she finds a community of sorts with Wilson's "Fat Amy" and a cookie-cutter, dysfunctional, all-girls a cappella group. One wishes the filmmakers had found room for more rough-edged oddities and spent less time borrowing goodwill from *The Breakfast Club*. All told, *Pitch Perfect* isn't all that good – but it's an awfully good sport. (09/28/2012)

★★★★ – Kimberley Jones
Movies 8, Tinseltown South

RED DAWN

D: Dan Bradley; with Chris Hemsworth, Josh Peck, Adrienne Palicki, Josh Hutcherson, Isabel Lucas, Connor Cruise, Jeffrey Dean Morgan, Brett Cullen, Will Yun Lee, Kenneth Choi. (PG-13, 93 min.)

Movie remakes are rarely a good idea (at least from an artistic point of view). The original *Red Dawn*, John Milius' 1984 cult classic about Midwestern teenagers who defiantly defend their homeland against Russian invasion, has become deeply entrenched in the American soul. The 2012 remake, however, derives most of its inspiration from *Call of Duty* and other first-person-shooter video games, rather than the original film. Although the invading forces are North Korean this time around, the remake hews pretty close to the original in terms of the plot. But Bradley's version places all the emphasis on the action sequences and is near-laughable during its dramatic lulls. Aside from some thin threads about missing girlfriends and such, the dynamic between Chris Hemsworth's Marine-on-leave and his younger brother (Josh Peck) is the remake's only dramatic arc. Although the original *Red Dawn* was far-fetched, the remake offers little but vicarious thrills. (11/23/2012)

★★ – Marjorie Baumgarten
CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

RISE OF THE GUARDIANS

D: Peter Ramsey; with the voices of Hugh Jackman, Alec Baldwin, Jude Law, Isla Fisher, Chris Pine, Dakota Goyo. (PG, 97 min.)

Kids who can stomach mixed holiday fare should be able to ride out this stereoscopic superstorm of snow globes, Easter eggs, magic portals, enchanted crystals, moon worship, fruitcakes, *matryoshka* dolls, and lost teeth. Others may be confused. Despite the Thanksgiving-week release, *Rise of the Guardians* is not quite a Christmas movie. It's like a public-domain version of *Cartoon All-Stars to the Rescue*: Santa (voiced by Baldwin), the Easter Bunny (Jackman), the Tooth Fairy (Fisher), and the Sandman (a mute) team up with Jack Frost (Pine) to defeat the Boogeyman, aka Pitch (Law), who is threatening to enshroud the world in fear and darkness. Adapted from author and illustrator William Joyce's *The Guardians of Childhood* book series, *Rise of the Guardians* displays little evidence of Joyce's acclaimed artistic hand; the visual style of this DreamWorks film, directed by Peter Ramsey with visual consulting by Roger Deakins, is retro in the worst way. (11/23/2012)

★★ – Leah Churner
Alamo Lake Creek, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Galaxy Moviehouse, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

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Austin Film Festival
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MAKING THE CONNECTION

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FILM LISTINGS

White Christmas



D: Michael Curtiz; with Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney, Vera-Ellen. (1954, NR, 120 min.) **Broadway Brunch.** This Irving Berlin holiday classic about four entertainers falling in love and saving a Vermont inn is essential seasonal froth. @Alamo Ritz, Saturday & Sunday, 1pm.

★ SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK

D: David O. Russell; with Bradley Cooper, Jennifer Lawrence, Robert De Niro, Jacki Weaver, Chris Tucker, Anupam Kher, John Ortiz, Shea Whigham, Julia Stiles. (R, 122 min.)

"Negativity is a poison like nothing else," says bipolar Pat (Cooper), who is newly released from a state institution following a violent episode. Pat is convinced that exercise and a positive outlook – his "silver linings" philosophy – are all it takes to get his estranged wife back; his family, however, thinks some serious meds are in order. The smartest solution may lie in some balance between the two, and *Silver Linings Playbook* similarly rides the center line in its empathetic but facile look at mental illness. When Pat meets Tiffany (Lawrence), a young widow raw with grief, a tentative friendship forms, and Pat's days gain new purpose and direction. Writer/director David O. Russell, adapting Matthew Quick's novel, is in his element here: *Silver Linings Playbook* is consistently funny and very sweet fun. But one wishes Russell's ambition had tilted a few clicks away from comic absurdity, toward something more probing. (11/16/2012)

★★★

– Kimberley Jones

Alamo South Lamar, Arbor, Barton Creek Square, Violet Crown

★ SKYFALL

D: Sam Mendes; with Daniel Craig, Judi Dench, Javier Bardem, Ralph Fiennes, Naomie Harris, Bérénice Marlohe, Albert Finney, Ben Whishaw, Rory Kinnear, Ola Rapace. (PG-13, 143 min.)

What's in a name? Lately, less and less. With Daniel Craig's third go at 007, I'm not sure there's much to distinguish Bond from Bourne from Batman. They're all slurping from the same soup – think: death-haunted, self-righteous, tight-lipped parkour enthusiast. That isn't to say there isn't entertainment to be had in *Skyfall* – there's giddy gobs of it – but whither the insouciance, huh? Director and noted kill-joy Sam Mendes (*Revolutionary Road*) turns out to be aces with action set-pieces, Javier Bardem is a sheer pleasure as the franchise's international baddie du jour, and Roger Deakins' cinematography makes startling artistry of even the transitionals – as when Bond takes a (very) long gondola ride. He stands ramrod, all-business, for the duration, and the effect is at once silly and emblematic of the film's humorlessness about its hero. Would it kill him to just sit back and enjoy the ride? (11/09/2012)

★★★

– Kimberley Jones

Alamo Lake Creek, Alamo Slaughter Lane, Alamo Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, Southpark Meadows, Flix Brewhouse, Galaxy Moviehouse, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

TAKEN 2

D: Olivier Megaton; with Liam Neeson, Famke Janssen, Maggie Grace, Rade Serbedzija. (PG-13, 91 min.)

Liam Neeson gets to dig deep into his *Darkman* roots with this superanimated sequel to 2008's *Taken*. Like its uninspired but succinct title, this competent actioner gets straight to the point. Neeson returns as Bryan Mills, a former U.S. overseas operative/assassin/badass who, as *Taken 2* begins, is reconnecting with ex-wife Lenore (Janssen) and daughter Kim (Grace). Not for long, though, as the Albanian brothers and fathers of the white slavers

he offed in the first film soon come calling with vengeance in their eyes and Glocks in their meaty paws. When the thugs kidnap Kim and Lenore, Bryan goes into invincible MacGyver mode and much running and leaping across the rooftops of Istanbul follows. The action is frenetic and frequent, and the whole film has a vaguely Eurotrash vibe. It's fun enough on its own relatively low-budget merits, but it's really nothing to die – or kill – for. (10/05/2012)

★★★

– Marc Savlov

Movies 8, Tinseltown South

THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN – PART 2

D: Bill Condon; with Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, Taylor Lautner, Peter Facinelli, Mackenzie Foy, Elizabeth Reaser, Ashley Greene, Michael Sheen, Jackson Rathbone, Nikki Reed, Kellan Lutz, Billy Burke, Dakota Fanning, Maggie Grace, Rami Malek, Lee Pace, Casey LaBow, Joe Anderson. (PG-13, 115 min.)

So here it is: the last installment of the *Twilight* saga, or "our long national nightmare." *Part 2* picks up with the formerly human Bella Swan (Stewart) getting her first taste of vampire life, after her bloodsucker husband Edward Cullen (Pattinson) turned her to save her life after the difficult childbirth that concluded *Part 1*. The plot kicks in when Bella and Edward's new progeny Renesmee – half-vamp, half-human – is spied by another vampire, who runs to tattle to the Volturi (the undead tribunal) that the Cullens bit a kid – a capital offense. Sanitized bloodlust, decapitated heads, and mixed messages swathed in a soft-focus shimmer ensue. If a late-in-the-film montage of Bella and Edward's swooniest looks seems familiar, that's because you've seen the same supercut on YouTube already, spliced together by a small army of sighing girls. Kiddos: I'm sighing too, but only from relief it's all behind us now. (11/23/2012)

★★

– Kimberley Jones

Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

WRECK-IT RALPH

D: Rich Moore; with the voices of John C. Reilly, Sarah Silverman, Jack McBrayer, Jane Lynch, Alan Tudyk, Ed O'Neill, Mindy Kaling, Brandon Scott, Joe Lo Truglio, Dennis Haysbert. (PG, 101 min.)

Candyland meets *Tron* by way of Nintendo's *Donkey Kong*, a splash of treacly Disneyana, and a gooey series of sugar-bomb, high-fructose, racing set-pieces: Such are the ingredients of *Wreck-It Ralph*. The end result isn't a disaster, but it is unfocused, and most of the gags hit with all the punch of a well-suckled gumdrop. The titular Ralph (voiced by Reilly) is the "bad guy" in a fictional video game called *Fix-It Felix Jr.*, who dreams instead of being a hero. Miffed, Ralph abandons his own game and crosses over to others: from the bug-infested, first-person shooter *Hero's Duty* to *Sugar Rush* – a Wonka-fied go-kart racer. There, he meets Vanellope von Schweetz (Silverman), the pair form a wary alliance, and, hey, what do you know, they learn some serious life lessons. Sweet enough but in the end a bit of a corny-syrupy wipeout, *Wreck-It Ralph* is middling, candyfloss-saturated family-night fare. (11/02/2012)

★★

– Marc Savlov

Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

BY MARJORIE BAUMGARTEN

THURSDAY 20

Christmas Pops Sing-Along Action Pack. @Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm.

Elf Quote-Along (2003) *D: Jon Favreau; with Will Ferrell.* (PG, 95 min.) **Action Pack.** @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey Feast (2012) *D: Peter Jackson; with Ian McKellen, Martin Freeman.* (PG-13, 166 min.) **Food & Film.** Sold out. @Alamo Slaughter Lane, 7pm.

★ **Man on a Mission: Richard Garriott's Road to the Stars (2012)** See p.60.

SPACES

Holiday Movie Marathon Austin Public Library: Christmas Movies. Marathon continues from 11am-8pm. @University Hills Branch Library, 11am; free.

Pick Your Flick Austin Public Library. Choose from a selection of candidates each month. @Ruiz Branch Library, 5:30pm.

FRIDAY 21

Christmas Pops Sing-Along Action Pack. @Alamo Village, 12mid. (See Thursday, 12/20.)

Christmas Show Master Pancake Theater. This seasonal show features the Master Pancake regulars and clips from favorite holiday TV specials and other weird holiday programs. @Alamo Ritz, 7, 10.

A Christmas Story (1983) *D: Bob Clark; with Peter Billingsley, Darren McGavin, Melinda Dillon.* (PG, 98 min.) **Big Screen Classics.** Ralphie wants nothing more for Christmas than a Red Ryder 200-shot, range-model air rifle, but he must convince Mom and Dad that, if lucky enough to receive this “Holy Grail of Christmas presents,” he won’t shoot his eye out. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 12:15pm.

Die Hard (1988) *D: John McTiernan; with Bruce Willis, Alan Rickman, Bonnie Bedelia.* (R, 131 min.) **Tough Guy Cinema.** Bruce Willis discovered his movie legs in this superb action movie that thrusts him into the Everyman Hero role when he is coincidentally visiting a high-rise at the same time terrorist thieves are taking it over. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 11:45pm.

Ernest Saves Christmas (1988) *D: John R. Cherry III; with Jim Varney.* (PG, 95 min.) **Alamo Kids' Camp.** Ernest P. Worrell, Varney's hayseed busybody, meets up with Kris Kringle. @Alamo South Lamar, 11:30am.

The Muppet Christmas Carol (1992) *D: Brian Henson; with Michael Caine; with the voices of Dave Goelz, Frank Oz, Steve Whitmire.* (G, 85 min.) **Alamo Kids' Camp.** The Muppets bring cheer to Ebenezer Scrooge. (*) @Alamo Lake Creek, 11am.

The Polar Express (2004) *D: Robert Zemeckis; with Tom Hanks.* (G, 100 min.) **Kid Party.** Chris Van Allsburg's magical tale of the Christmas Eve re-education of a Santa-doubting adolescent gets the motion-capture treatment. (*) @Alamo Slaughter Lane, 11am.

The Santa Clause (1994) *D: John Pasquin; with Tim Allen, Judge Reinhold, Wendy Crewson, Eric Lloyd, David Krumholtz.* (PG, 97 min.) **Alamo Kids' Camp.** When Santa falls off his roof, a man forgets to read the fine print before signing on as his substitute. (*) @Alamo Village, 10am.

SPACES

Die Hard (1988) **Blue Starlite Drive-In.** @Austin Studios, 7pm. (See above.)

The Last Elvis (2012) *D: Armando Bo; with John McNerny, Griselda Siciliani, Margarita Lopez.* (NR, 91 min.) **Noche de Película.** An Elvis impersonator reassesses his life. @EsquinaTango, 8:30pm.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The *Austin Chronicle* is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the Dec. 28 issue is Monday, Dec. 24.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork.

Send submissions to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765; fax, 458-6910; or email.

Contact Marjorie Baumgarten (Special Screenings): specialscreenings@austinchronicle.com; Wayne Alan Brenner (Offscreen): calendar@austinchronicle.com.

SATURDAY 22

Christmas Pops Sing-Along Action Pack. @Alamo Slaughter Lane, 10pm. (See Thursday, 12/20.)

Christmas Show Master Pancake Theater. @Alamo Ritz, 7, 10. (See Friday.)

A Christmas Story (1983) **Big Screen Classics.** @Alamo Ritz, 4:15pm. (See Friday.)

Die Hard (1988) **Tough Guy Cinema.** @Alamo Ritz, 11:30pm. (See Friday.)

Ernest Saves Christmas (1988) **Alamo Kids' Camp.** @Alamo South Lamar, 11:30am. (See Friday.)

First Blood (1982) See p.60.

The Muppet Christmas Carol (1992) **Alamo Kids' Camp.** @Alamo Lake Creek, 10am. (See Friday.)

The Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975) (R, 95 min.) Austin fans have been dressing up and doing the “Time Warp” thing live for more than three decades. For more info, see www.austinrocky.org. @Alamo Village, 12mid.

The Santa Clause (1994) **Alamo Kids' Camp.** @Alamo Village, 10am. (See Friday.)

White Christmas (1954) See p.62.

SPACES

The Nightmare Before Christmas and Edward Scissorhands **Blue Starlite Drive-In.** Double feature with “A Charlie Brown Christmas” preshow. @Austin Studios, 6pm.

Scrooged (1988) *D: Richard Donner; with Bill Murray.* (PG-13, 101 min.) **Blue Starlite Drive-In.** Stop-motion holiday preshow included. (*) @Austin Studios, 9:45pm.

SUNDAY 23

A Christmas Story (1983) **Big Screen Classics.** @Alamo Ritz, 4:15pm. (See Friday.)

Ernest Saves Christmas (1988) **Alamo Kids' Camp.** @Alamo South Lamar, 11:30am. (See Friday.)

Kill Bill: Vol. 1 (2003) See p.60.

The Muppet Christmas Carol (1992) **Alamo Kids' Camp.** @Alamo Lake Creek, 10am. (See Friday.)

Nothing Lasts Forever (1984) See p.60.

The Nutcracker (2011) (G, 109 min.) **Emerging Pictures: Ballet in Cinema.** London's Royal Ballet performs the Christmastime classic starring Roberta Marquez and Steven McRai, with choreography by Peter Wright after Lev Ivanov. @CM Cedar Park, 12pm.

The Santa Clause (1994) **Alamo Kids' Camp.** @Alamo Village, 10am. (See Friday.)

White Christmas (1954) See p.62.

SPACES

The Nightmare Before Christmas and A Christmas Story **Blue Starlite Drive-In.** Double feature with a stop-motion holiday preshow and “It's a Charlie Brown Christmas.” @Austin Studios, 7pm.

MONDAY 24

The Big Lebowski Quote-Along (1998) (R, 117 min.) **Action Pack.** @Alamo South Lamar, 10pm.

Die Hard (1988) **Tough Guy Cinema.** @Alamo Ritz, 4pm. (See Friday.)

Elf Quote-Along (2003) **Action Pack.** @Alamo Ritz, 7pm. (See Thursday, 12/20.)

Ernest Saves Christmas (1988) **Alamo Kids' Camp.** @Alamo South Lamar, 11:30am. (See Friday.)

Kill Bill: Vol. 1 (2003) See p.60.

The Muppet Christmas Carol (1992) **Alamo Kids' Camp.** @Alamo Lake Creek, 10am. (See Friday.)

The Santa Clause (1994) **Alamo Kids' Camp.** @Alamo Village, 10am. (See Friday.)



TUESDAY 25

Ernest Saves Christmas (1988) **Alamo Kids' Camp.** @Alamo South Lamar, 11:30am. (See Friday.)

Kill Bill: Vol. 2 (2004) *D: Quentin Tarantino; with Uma Thurman, David Carradine, Michael Madsen, Daryl Hannah, Gordon Liu, Michael Parks, Bo Svenson, Jeannie Epper, Perla Honey-Jardine.* (R, 127 min.) **QT Retrospective.** (*) @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

The Muppet Christmas Carol (1992) **Alamo Kids' Camp.** @Alamo Lake Creek, 10am. (See Friday.)

The Santa Clause (1994) **Alamo Kids' Camp.** @Alamo Village, 10am. (See Friday.)

Silent Night, Deadly Night: Part 2 (1987) *D: Lee Harry; with Eric Freeman.* (R, 88 min.) **Terror Tuesday.** The brother of the killer in *Part 1* is back for revenge. @Alamo Ritz, 10:30pm.

WEDNESDAY 26

Elvis on Tour: 75th Anniversary Celebration (2010) Commemorating the 75th anniversary of Elvis' birth, this film features remastered footage of the King in concert, as well as performances and interviews from the 1972 film *Elvis on Tour*. @iPic, 7:30pm.

Ernest Saves Christmas (1988) **Alamo Kids' Camp.** @Alamo South Lamar, 10am. (See Friday.)

First Blood (1982) See p.60.

The Muppet Christmas Carol (1992) **Alamo Kids' Camp.** @Alamo Lake Creek, 10am. (See Friday.)

The Santa Clause (1994) **Alamo Kids' Camp.** @Alamo Village, 10am. (See Friday.)

Surprise Film Weird Wednesday. @Alamo Ritz, 10:30pm.

THURSDAY 27

Elf Quote-Along (2003) **Action Pack.** @Alamo Ritz, 7pm. (See Thursday, 12/20.)

Ernest Saves Christmas (1988) **Alamo Kids' Camp.** @Alamo South Lamar, 10am. (See Friday.)

The Fugitive (1993) *D: Andrew Davis; with Harrison Ford, Tommy Lee Jones, Sela Ward, Joe Pantoliano.* (PG-13, 130 min.) **Man Crush.** Flinty Tommy Lee Jones is the best thing about this otherwise standard chase film. (*) @Alamo South Lamar, 7pm.

Grandma's Boy Quote-Along (2006) *D: Nicholas Goossen; with Allen Covert, Nick Swardson, Peter Dante, Linda Cardellini, Shirley Jones, Shirley Knight, Doris Roberts, Kevin Nealon, Rob Schneider.* (R, 94 min.) **Action Pack.** @Alamo Ritz, 10pm.

The Muppet Christmas Carol (1992) **Alamo Kids' Camp.** @Alamo Lake Creek, 10am. (See Friday.)

The Santa Clause (1994) **Alamo Kids' Camp.** @Alamo Village, 10am. (See Friday.)

IMAX SEE SHOWTIMES FOR SCHEDULE

Rocky Mountain Express (2011) *D: Stephen Low.* (NR, 45 min.) Giant IMAX cameras were strapped to a 1930s steam engine from the Canadian Pacific Railway to follow its trek through the Rockies, from Vancouver to Calgary.

Texas: The Big Picture (2003) *D: Scott Swofford; narrated by Colby Donaldson.* (NR, 39 min.) Panoramic shots of Texas grace the screen as the state is shown to be a land capable of producing everything from grapefruit to microchips.

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (2012) *D: Peter Jackson; with Ian McKellen, Martin Freeman.*

To the Arctic 3D (2012) *D: Greg MacGillivray; narrated by Meryl Streep.* (G, 40 min.) Immense glaciers and melting ice must be navigated by a mother polar bear and her two 7-month-old cubs in this intimate 3-D documentary filmed at the top of the world.

OFFSCREEN

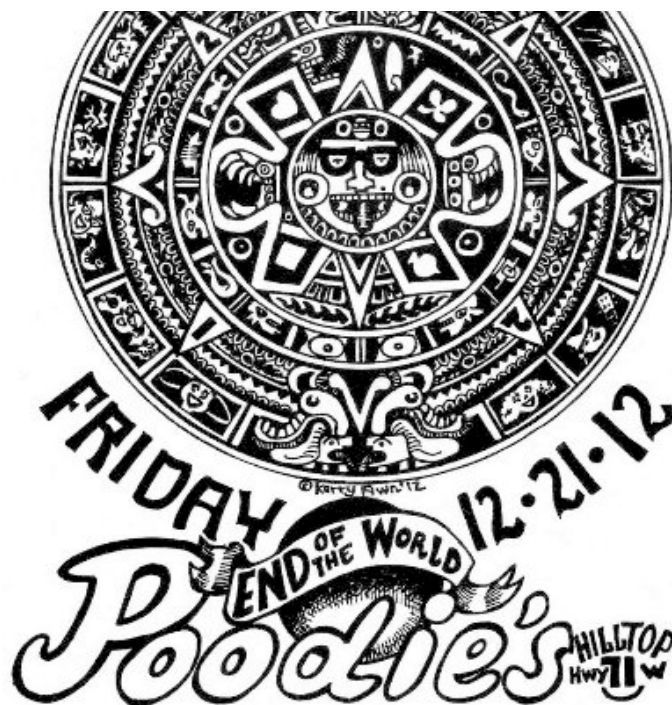
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Call For Entries: Faces Of Austin 2013 *Thu., Dec. 27.* 512/974-9316. free. www.austintexas.gov/facesofaustin.

Call to Filmmakers: Faces of Austin 2013 The city of Austin invites all Austin-area filmmakers to submit their work reflecting the diverse faces, voices, and experiences of our city. Selected films will have a premiere screening during the SXSW Film Conference Community Screenings in March 2013 and will be shown at Austin City Hall, on Channel 6, on the city website, and at special screenings throughout the year. See website for details. Deadline: *Jan. 15.* 974-7700. www.austintexas.gov/departments/faces-austin.

The Screenplay Workshop: Winter Classes Registering Screenwriting Fundamentals Learn in five weeks everything you must know to write a screenplay. *Tuesdays, Jan. 8-Feb. 5, 7-9:30pm or Saturdays, Jan. 12-Feb. 9, 1:30-4pm.* \$225. **Screenwriters Master Class** Write a feature-length screenplay in 10 weeks. *Tuesdays, Jan. 8-March 12, 7-9:30pm or Saturdays, Jan. 12-March 16, 1:30-4pm.* \$395. **Private Screenwriting Coaching and Consultation** is also available. See website for details. www.thescreenplayworkshop.org.



Uranium Savages

They've long called themselves "the band too dumb to die,"

but make no mistake, the Uranium Savages' parody-style musical humor remains Austin-centric after all these years. In a Christmas blowout called the End of the World Partay, bandleader Kerry Awn warns of a "special Blue Christmas Elvis tribute."

He chuckles. "It's also the end of the world, so we're having yellow cake."

It's worth noting that the Uranium Savages' wicked send-ups predate "Weird Al" Yankovic by more than a decade, going back to Austin's pot smoke and sassafras scented Seventies. The revue-style act ruled at Soap Creek during the neon nights of yore, shoulder-to-shoulder with Doug Sahm, Paul Ray & the Cobras, and Marcia Ball's Freda & the Firedogs.

Lampooning the local culture ("Tit Bars," "Beer Makes Me Dumb") and icons ("Leslie," "Party With the Pope") alike, the Savages sometimes dip into novelty tunes and sometimes outright covers, proof that musi-

cal trends change, but humor with a tune never goes out of style.

Heading out to Poodie's in Spicewood isn't quite as convenient as the Continental Club, but as Awn points out, "Highway 71 west of Bee Cave just opened a brand new section, so expect a smooth drive from Austin. Also, Spicewood is an unincorporated area, so you can shoot off fireworks."

Awn disputes the notion that the grizzled hipsters are on their last legs.

"We've seen a resurgence in popularity this past year thanks to the ever-present possibility that there might be a medical emergency during a performance. We're also planning on releasing a new 8-track of music next year and putting out a line of children's sleepwear."

Finally, the Savages breathed a sigh of relief after this year's presidential election.

"We now have an eight-year stockpile of Spam and bottled water we need to get rid of," offers Awn. — Margaret Moser

Poodie's Hilltop Roadhouse, Friday 21
10:30pm, \$10

PARTY AT THE END OF THE WORLD

Red 7, Friday 21
See "Playback," p.45.

JOE ELY

Saxon Pub, Friday 21 & Saturday 22

Between touring with and releasing long lost tapes from the Flatlanders, as well as performing never-ending solo gigs, Joe Ely spent 2012 making music filled with unforgettable images and words. Whether with an all-star band or backed solely by accordion-playing compadre Joel Guzman, Ely's presence blasts people out of their seats, so he's sure to make the tiny Saxon Pub stage seem even smaller. Billed as duo shows, back-to-back nights on South Lamar seem likely to have special guests as well. 9pm both nights. — Jim Caligiuri



GUY FORSYTH & CAROLYN WONDERLAND'S HOLIDAY ROAST
Long Center, Friday 21 & Saturday 22

It's become a South Austin tradition. Two of the 04's favorite rock and blues musicians, Guy Forsyth and Carolyn Wonderland, round up a band of merry prank-

sters for unique interpretations of old chestnuts. Inventing a couple of new, irreverent past-times along the way, the locals' Christmas disc, *Fireside Songs for the Soul*, indicates a broad taste in holiday music — John Lennon, John Prine, and Charles Brown — so expect similar nontraditional fare and a warm spiritual buzz afterward. — Jim Caligiuri

GOLDEN BOYS, FLESH LIGHTS

Beverland, Saturday 22

If you ask people in the local music scene who the best rock bands in Austin are and they don't mention the Golden Boys, they either have shit taste or they're lying to you in order to preserve the quintet's cult status. The gang of talented songwriters plays with careless conviction in executing an untamed live show that leaves you hungover with great choruses stuck in your head. Check out this year's *Dirty Fingernails* if you don't believe me. Much of this also applies to the direct support from local punk trio Flesh Lights. — Kevin Curtin

SUZANNA CHOFFEL

Strange Brew, Lounge Side (5326 Manchaca), Saturday 22

Homegrown guitar hero Ian Moore and opener Charlie Faye already sold out Friday at "South Austin's new listening room," but you can stream the performance at www.strangebrewaustin.com. Same goes the next night for singsong rocker gone New Yorker Suzanna

Choffel, who's doubtlessly home for the holidays and ready to roll out some yee-haw holiday cheer. Austin's venue scene continues to grow and evolve, so it's time to quaff some Strange Brew. Naga Valli opens. — Raoul Hernandez

PRESERVATION HALL JAZZ BAND

One World Theatre, Sunday 23

New Orleans' last bastion of turn of the 20th century horns, plungers, and blaring brass followed up its 2012 Rounder Records disc, *St. Peter & 57th St.* — the Hall's address — with a *50th Anniversary Collection* box set on Sony/Legacy. On the former, Ms. Merrill Garbus (Tune-Yards) belts "Tootie Ma," while the latter boasts the Tom Waits on "Tootie Ma Is a Big Fine Thing." No such guests at the One World, only eight of the Crescent City's finest brass preservationists, 6 & 8:30pm. — Raoul Hernandez

BILL KIRCHEN & FRIENDS

Palmer Events Center, Monday 24

Born to the manger of the Armadillo World Headquarters' rock & roll circus in 1976, the Armadillo Christmas Bazaar finishes up this 37th year as per custom on Christmas Eve. And who better to host two of the grandest dames of Austin music than AWHQ hot rod axe grinder Bill Kirchen of Commander Cody & His Lost Planet Airmen fame? Texana Dames Conni and Charlene Hancock celebrate their late part-

ner in Bazaar Southwestern harmonies, Traci Lamar Hancock, 8pm.

— Raoul Hernandez

MISS LAVELLE WHITE'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saxon Pub, Tuesday 25

Need a break from red-nosed overload? Let Miss Lavelle get you back in the spirit at her 10th annual Christmas soiree. The local R&B queen, who performed in Houston alongside Johnny Copeland and Bobby Bland during the heyday of Don Robey's Duke/Peacock label, has the bona fides to save holiday stressor. At 83, she still commands the stage with a down-home amalgam of blues, jazz, gospel, and soul. The proceeds benefit White's living expenses, so expect a special guest or two among the devotees, 8pm.

— Greg Beets

ANTONE'S ALUMNI WINTER BALL

Antone's, Thursday 27

Looking to add some nostalgic glow to the holiday season since chestnuts on an open fire aren't really an option? There's plenty around, though nothing like the classy reunion at Antone's Alumni Winter Ball. Belters including Lou Ann Barton and Malford Milligan get six-string support from the likes of Kathy Valentine, Denny Freeman, and Derek O'Brien to ensure rockin' R&B. Mike Flanigin, George Rains, J.J. Johnson, Georgia Bramhall, Larry Fulcher, and Scott Nelson act as icing on that holiday sweet.

— Margaret Moser

soundcheck

BY RAOUL HERNANDEZ

END OF THE WORLD PARTY

Frontier Bar, Friday 21

Mayan calendar hoax in effect with a five-act local bill anchored by instrumental quirks Halaska (12mid) and Impossibles soloist Gabe Hascall, 9pm.

DAMON BRAMBLETT

White Horse, Friday 21

Where ya been, long, tall, and lone-some? 10pm.

CEDRIC BURNSIDE PROJECT/VALLEJO

Antone's, Friday 21/ Saturday 22

Late blues great R.L. Burnside's kin hosts grit-kickers Old Gray Mule, while Saturday rocks Latin locals and ATX big band compatible Hector Ward & the Big Time.

ROBERT EARL KEEN'S MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE FAM-O-LEE

ACL Live at the Moody Theater, Saturday 22

Still a few tickets left for Lone Star raconteur's dysfunction junction.

PAUL RAY & THE COBRAS/ THE WAGONEERS

Continental Club, Saturday 22/Sunday 23

Beginning to look a lot like you-know-what given this KUT *Twine Time* host's semi-annual blues reunion with ex-Dylan blazer Denny Freeman, 10pm. Sunday, Monte Warden's reunited country bucks go all-ages, 7:30pm.

SHELLEY KING, CAROLYN WONDERLAND

Palmer Events Center, Sunday 23
Austin belles get folk (noon) and blues (3:30pm), respectively, at the Armadillo Christmas Bazaar.

DALE WATSON'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SHOW & DANCE

Continental Club, Tuesday 25
All I want for Christmas is boot-scootin' honky-tonk, 10pm.

SAINT JAMES SOCIETY

Sahara Lounge, Wednesday 26
Hard psych ATX mystics preview debut LP *Alien Knife Fight*, too.

GRAHAM WILKINSON, LZ LOVE

Frank, Thursday 27
Indie songwriter meets outie soulstress. Shawn Nelson first.

in-stores:

Friday: **The Well, Tia Carrera, Scorpion Child**, Cheapo Records, 5pm; Saturday: **DJ Tropicana Joe, DJ Hucklebuck, the Bellfuries, Olivier Giraud**, Cheapo Records, 5pm; Thursday, Dec. 27: **Nicaragua**, Trailer Space, 7pm

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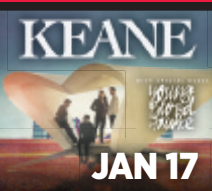
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SAM'S TOWN POINT, 2115 Allred, 282-0083

SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR, 5900 Slaughter #400, 288-9994

SAXON PUB, 1320 S. Lamar, 448-2552

SCHOLZ GARTEN, 1607 San Jacinto, 751-5650

THE SCOOT INN, 1308 E. Fourth, 478-6200

SFC FARMERS' MARKET AT SUNSET VALLEY, 3200 Jones, 236-0074

SFC FARMERS' MARKET DOWNTOWN, Fourth & Guadalupe, 236-0074

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL, 9012 Research Ste. C-1, 380-9443

SHOOTERS BILLIARDS CEDAR PARK, 601 E. Whitestone, Cedar Park, 512/260-2060

SHOOTERS BILLIARDS NORTH, 11416 RR 620 N., 401-2060

SPEAKEASY, 412 Congress, 476-8017

SPIDER HOUSE 29TH ST. BALLROOM, 2906 Fruth, 480-9562

ST. LOUIS CATHOLIC CHURCH, 7601 Burnet Rd., 454-0384

THE STAGE ON SIXTH, 508 E. Sixth, 614-1540

STRANGE BREW AUSTIN COFFEE, 5326 Manchaca Rd., 828-7636

STUBB'S, 801 Red River, 480-8341

TEXAS BAR & GRILL, 14611 Burnet Rd., 255-1300

TEXAS MIST, 1115 Bastrop Hwy., 385-3553

TEXAS MUSIC THEATER, 120 E. San Antonio St., San Marcos, 512/667-7216

THE THIRSTY NICKEL, 325 E. Sixth, 473-8891

THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ, 301 W. Riverside, 472-9304

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TRIPLE CROWN, 206 N. Edward Gary St., San Marcos, 512/396-2236

VARSITY BAR, 2324 Guadalupe, 795-8888

VICTORY GRILL, 1104 E. 11th, 291-6211

VOLSTEAD LOUNGE, 1500 E. Sixth, 680-0532

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE, 1106 W. 38th, 451-5245

THE WHITE HORSE, 500 Comal, 502-4637

Z'TEJAS, 1110 W. Sixth, 478-5355

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20
Warren Hood and the Goods 12:00
Sons of Fathers..... 3:30
Slaid Cleaves..... 8:00

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21
Sarah Pierce..... 12:00
Brian Keane 3:30
Mary Hattersley's Blazing Bows... 6:30
The Band of Heathens 8:00

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22
Suzanna Choffel 12:00
The Resentments 3:30
Beto y Los Fairlanes 8:00

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23
Shelley King..... 12:00
Carolyn Wonderland..... 3:30
Albert and Gage 8:00

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24
Cienfuegos 12:00
Jitterbug Vipers..... 3:30
Bill Kirchen & Friends with special guests—Conni & Char Hancock... 8:00

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12/31 **25TH ANNIVERSARY**
DOWNSTAIRS: **WHISKEY SISTERS & JUNGLE ROCKERS**
NEW YEAR'S EVE IN THE GALLERY
ADV. TIX ON SALE **JIMMIE VAUGHAN**
w/ **MIKE FLANIGIN & FROSTY**
1/3 **BEN KWELLER**
1/5 **ELVIS EXTRAVAGANZA**

THURS DEC 20
HAPPY HOUR 6:30PM NO COVER
TWO HOOTS + A HOLLER 12AM

10:30PM
LEROI BROTHERS

9:30PM
HERMAN THE GERMAN
60TH BIRTHDAY!

H. H. 6:30PM
THE LEGENDARY **BLUES SPECIALISTS**
12/21-12/31 **25TH ANNIVERSARY WEEK!**
10PM **SPEEDY SPARKS**
"END OF THE WORLD" PARTY WITH
MYSTIC KNIGHTS OF THE SEA
AND **THE TEXAS MAVERICKS**

SATURDAY DEC 22
MATINEE 3PM NO COVER
REDD VOLKAERT
12AM **BARFIELD**
THE TYRANT OF TX FUNK
10PM **PAUL RAY AND THE COBRAS**

SUNDAY DEC 23
MATINEE 3PM NO COVER
PLANET CASPER
2ND ANNUAL ALL AGES
HOLIDAY SHOW
7:30PM **THE WAGONEERS**

10:30PM
HEYBALE WITH
REDD VOLKAERT, EARL POOLE BALL PLUS DALLAS WAYNE

MONDAY DEC 24
CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS EVE!
HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU & YOURS!
TUESDAY DEC 25
7PM SPECIAL EVENT, IT'S A
TONI PRICE CHRISTMAS!

DALE WATSON
& HIS LONE STARS
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS
SHOW AND DANCE

WEDNESDAY DEC 26
HAPPY HOUR 6:30PM NO COVER
THE JITTERBUG VIPERS 12AM

10PM
JAMES McMURTRY

THURSDAY DEC 27
HAPPY HOUR NO COVER
JON DEE GRAHAM & THE FIGHTING COCKS
12:30AM **CONTINENTAL GRAFFITI**
11:15PM **SOUHAT ZAPATA!**

FRIDAY DEC 28
H. H. 6:30PM
THE LEGENDARY **BLUES SPECIALISTS**
10PM **TWO HOOTS & A HOLLER**
12AM **TWO TONS OF STEEL**

SATURDAY DEC 29
MATINEE 3PM NO COVER
REDD VOLKAERT
12:30AM **THE PETERSON BROTHERS**
11PM **THE RELATIVES**

9:30PM **JONES FAMILY SINGERS**

UPSTAIRS IN THE GALLERY
• THU 10:30 **TAMECA JONES**
8:30 **DAN DYER**
FRI 10:30 **MIKE FLANIGIN TRIO**
w/ **JOHNNY MOELLER & FROSTY**
FRI 8:30 **ROBERT KRAFT**
SAT 10:30 **TRUBE, FARRELL & FROSTY**
SAT 8:30 **SCARLETT OLSON**
SUN 10:30 **DUPREE** w/ **MIKE FLANIGIN, KYLE THOMPSON & JAKE LANGLEY**

ART BY
SUE ZOLA

GALLERY OPENS AT 8:00PM
SUN 8:30 **JON DEE GRAHAM AND MANY FRIENDS CHRISTMAS GALA**
• TUE 10:30 **RED YOUNG ORGAN TRIO WITH BRANNEN TEMPLE**
8:30 **JAMES McMURTRY**
• WED 10:30 **TRUBE, FARRELL, SNIZ**
8:30 **BARBARA K**
HECTOR MUNOZ & MIKE HARDWICK

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MONDAY DEC 31

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THU. DEC. 20
DAHEBEGBEES 11PM
PROGRESS 9PM
JACK BURTON TRIO 7PM

FRI. DEC. 21
BABY ATLAS 11PM
DOUGLAS JAY BOYD 9PM
GARRETT LEBEAU 7PM

SAT. DEC. 22
MOVIMENTO ROCKERO
XMAS PARTY
W/ VITERA BOCA ABAJO
10:15PM
MANZANAS MALAS 9PM

WED. DEC. 26
DAVE SCHER TRIO 11PM
BLACK RED BLACK 9PM
(BRENNAN TEMPLE, EPHRAIM OWENS AND RED YOUNG)
KARL MORGAN BAND 7PM

THU. DEC. 27
DAHEBEGBEES 11PM
BRANDON CALLIES BAND 7PM

HAPPY HOUR DAILY 5-7PM • 125 FREE PARKING SPACES
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CLUB LISTINGS

THURSDAY 20

AMAYA'S TACO VILLAGE Johnny Gonzales (5:00)
ANTONE'S Blues Brothers Tribute (8:00) **A**
BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Justif (7:00)
BAR MIRABEAU Paula Maya (7:00)
BAT BAR Wrecker Lee (7:00)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Kristen Smith (8:00)
BEERLAND Shinta, the French Inhales, Suspirians (9:00)
BLIND PIG PUB John Prather (4:00)
BROKEN SPOKE Tony Harrison, Dance Lessons, Jesse Dayton (6:00)
CAROUSEL LOUNGE Dan Nettles (7:00)
CEDAR PARK CENTER Trans-Siberian Orchestra **R**

CEDAR STREET Eddie Schmidt w/ LynZ Wells (6:00), Fabulous Cherry Bombs (9:00)
CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Dry Creek Ramblers (6:30) **A**
CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Will Taylor & Strings Attached (6:30) **A**
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Kem Watts (10:00)
CHERRYWOOD COFFEEHOUSE Tony Redman (7:00) **A**
CHUGGIN' MONKEY Amber Lucille (4:30), Cody Rowe (9:30)
CLUB DE VILLE Desilu
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Dan Dyer (8:30), Tameca Jones (8:30); In the Club: The Whiskey Sisters (6:30), Herman the German, LeRoi Brothers, Two Hoots & a Holler (9:30)
COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa & Bachata Lessons, DJ Alvaro (8:30)

DIZZY ROOSTER John Chavez (6:00), Nothing Left (9:00)
DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws
DOWN UNDER DELI Open Mic w/ Bob Samataro (8:00)
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kevin Lovejoy Trio (7:30) **A**
ELYSIUM Mayan Apocalypse w/ DJ Edminister, DJ Ravnos, Blood Sirens (9:30)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Starlings (TN) (6:00) **A**, Open Mic w/ Lisa Kettyle (8:00) **A**
FRANK T. Jarrod Bonta, Fatback Circus, Bus Stop Stallions (9:30) **A**
FRIENDS Ryan & the Relics, Chris Tondre (7:00)
GIDDY UPS Open Mic w/ Greg Duffy (8:00)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Texas Mavericks' Doug Sahn Tribute w/ Mike Buck, John X Reed, Speedy Sparks, Alvin Crow (6:30)

ROAD SHOWS

December

THU 20

Trans-Siberian Orchestra, Cedar Park Center
Dead Love Club, Mohawk
Pam Tillis, One World Theatre
Amilia K. Spicer, Poodie's Hilltop Roadhouse
Good Hearts Postcard Club, Red 7

FRI 21

Cedric Burnside, Antone's
Auto Body, Beauty Ballroom
Jay Hollis Band, Carousel Lounge
Feverbones, Cheer Up Charlie's

Abiotic, Truman Syndrome, Dirty Dog Bar
Money Chicha, Mohawk
Nadis Warriors, Blockhead, Dr. Fameus, the Parish
The Suffers, Wilroy Black & the Boss, the Sahara Lounge
Ian Moore, Strange Brew Austin Coffee

SAT 22

Robert Earl Keen, ACL Live at the Moody Theater
Epitaph of the Savior, Carousel Lounge
Shmu, Cheer Up Charlie's
Josh Heinrichs, DF Dub, Skillinjah, Flamingo Cantina
Fairbanks, Hotel Vegas
Rusty Lazer, Mohawk

Los Super Avengers, Nomad
Suzanna Choffel, Palmer Events Center
Mondo Generator, Anacostia, From Broken to Blessed, Red 7
Suzanna Choffel, Strange Brew Austin Coffee

SUN 23

Preservation Hall Jazz Band, One World Theatre
Alma Lee, Doug Balliett, Benoit Pioulard, Salvage Vanguard Theater

MON 24

Bill Kirchen, Palmer Events Center

THU 27

Cody Canada & the Departed, Gruene Hall
Camp Lo, Holy Mountain
Royal Teeth, Stubb's

LISTINGS ARE FREE AND PRINTED ON A SPACE AVAILABLE BASIS. ACTS ARE LISTED CHRONOLOGICALLY. SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE, SO CALL CLUBS TO CONFIRM LINEUPS. START TIMES ARE PROVIDED WHERE KNOWN AND ARE PM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS: MUSIC LISTINGS DEADLINE IS MONDAY MORNINGS, 9AM. FOR THAT WEEK'S ISSUE, PUBLISHED ON THURSDAY. PLEASE INDICATE ROADSHOWS AND RESIDENCIES. SEND VENUE NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, ACTS, AND START TIMES TO: CLUB LISTINGS, PO BOX 49066, AUSTIN, TX 78765; FAX, 458-6910; PHONE, 454-5766 X159; EMAIL, clubs@austinchronicle.com. AUSTIN BANDS: WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU. IF YOU HAVEN'T REGISTERED AND UPLOADED YOUR MP3S TO THE MUSICIANS REGISTER, GO TO AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/REGISTER. ANYWHERE YOUR BAND IS MENTIONED, YOUR MUSIC WILL BE FEATURED.

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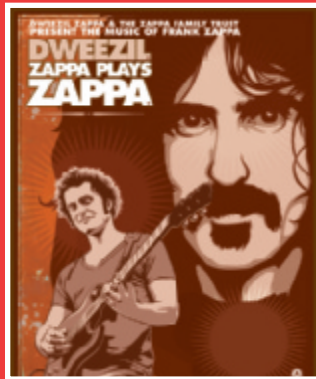
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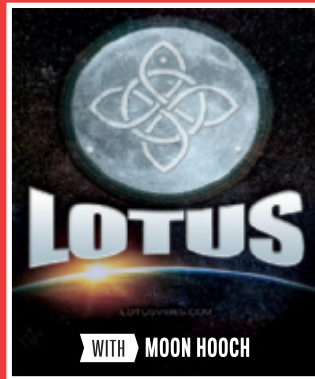
SAT JAN 26



SAT FEB 9



SAT FEB 16



IN THE CLUB

THU DEC 20 DOORS 8PM
SONGSEED'S AUSTIN MUSIC
SHOWCASE - HOLIDAY BENEFIT FOR
GROUNDED IN MUSIC

FRI DEC 21 DOORS 9PM
O CONQUEROR
WITH SOUTHBOUND DRIVE AND THE CHORDEROYS

SAT DEC 22 DOORS 9PM
DON CHANI

THU DEC 27 DOORS 9PM
ROYAL TEETH
WITH THE SOUR NOTES

MON DEC 31 DOORS 9PM
NYE: T BIRD & THE BREAKS
WITH HENRY + THE INVISIBLES
COMPLIMENTARY BUFFET AND CHAMPAGNE TOAST!

FREE WEEK JAN 3-5

WED JAN 2 DOORS 8PM
LEOGUN WITH THE RAREBIRDS

THU JAN 3 DOORS 9PM
TALLHART (ACOUSTIC)
AND **DRIVER FRIENDLY**

FRI JAN 4 DOORS 9PM
SETH SHERMAN
WITH THE CHORDEROYS AND DANIEL FRANCIS DOYLE

SAT JAN 5 DOORS ???PM
AUSTIN VIDA PRESENTS

VALLEJO WITH VITERA AND PATRICIA VONNE

FRI JAN 11 DOORS 9PM
OAK IS KEEPING
WITH PAPER MOTEL & MODRAG

SAT JAN 12 DOORS 9PM
DIRTY WORMZ
WITH THREE33 AND LOVERS & FIGHTERS

SAT JAN 19 DOORS 10PM
TADDY PORTER WITH FILLIGAR

SUN JAN 20 DOORS 6:30PM
ACTION ITEM
WITH BEFORE YOU EXIT, PARADISE FEARS,
HELLO HIGHWAY AND TUCKER JAMESON

WED JAN 23 DOORS 9PM
THE WHIGS WITH THE MIDGETMEN

SAT JAN 26 DOORS 9PM
PERPETUAL GROOVE

MON JAN 28 DOORS 8PM
AUGUSTANA (ACOUSTIC)
WITH LAUREN SHERA

TUE JAN 29 DOORS 7PM
ALLSTAR WEEKEND
WITH CUTE IS WHAT WE AIM FOR AND TIFFANY POND

SUN FEB 3 DOORS 8PM
HUNTER VALENTINE

SAT FEB 9 DOORS 11PM
THE ROAD TO PAID DUES TOUR FEATURING
MURS, PROF, FASHAWN

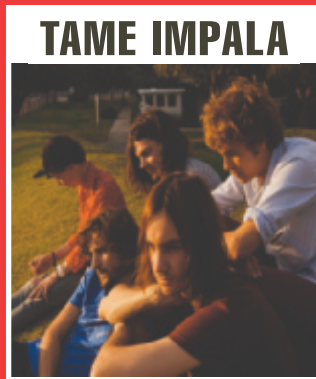
SAT FEB 23 DOORS 9PM
JUKEBOX THE GHOST
WITH MATT POND AND LIGHTHOUSE & THE WHALER

SUN FEB 24 DOORS 8PM
ELECTRIC SIX

THU FEB 21



TUE FEB 26



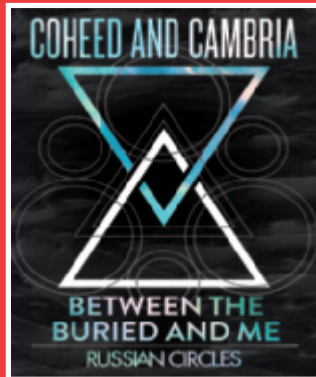
WED FEB 27



THU FEB 28



FRI MAR 1



SAT MAR 2



**FRI & SAT
MAR 29 & 30**



TUE APR 9



FRI APR 12



the PARISH™

Fri 12/21

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Nadis Warriors**
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(Allen Aucoin of the Disco Biscuits)

Sat 12/29

A Holiday Party w/

**David Ramirez,
SERYN, Blue Bear**

NYE 12/31

**The Original
South Austin
Jug Band**
w/ Warren Hood
and the Goods

Sat 1/19

**The
Eastern Sea
and Kopecky
Family Band**
w/ Emily Wolfe
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Sat 2/2

**North
Mississippi
Allstars**
(c3concerts.com)

4/1

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CLUB LISTINGS

FROM THURSDAY

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Invincible Czars Christmas Show (6:30)
HOLE IN THE WALL DJ Jazz One, Thermostat, C.J. Edwards & the Finest Kind (10:00)
HOLY MOUNTAIN Toy Ghost, the Handshake, Boy + Kite
HOTEL VEGAS Graham Wilkinson (7:00)
KICK BUTT COFFEE Open Mic w/ Ernie B. (7:00) **A**
LAMBERTS Other Lovers, These Mad Dogs of Glory (9:30) **B**
LONG CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS Carolyn Wonderland & Guy Forsyth Holiday Roast

LUCKY LOUNGE The Raindoggs, End of the World Party (10:00)
MIMI'S CAFE Kim Kafka (6:30)
MOHAWK Guilty Pleasures, Dead Love Club (8:00) **B**
NEWORLDELI Jim Patton & Sherry Brokus (7:00)
ONE 2 ONE BAR Jack Burton, Progress, Dahebegebees (7:00)
ONE WORLD THEATRE Pam Tillis (8:00) **B A**
PALMER EVENTS CENTER Armadillo Christmas Bazaar w/ Warren Hood & the Goods, Sons of Fathers (noon); Slaid Cleaves (8:00) **A**

PARAMOUNT THEATRE Asleep at the Wheel (8:00) **B A**
THE PARISH Greg Mullen & the Cosmic American Band, Linen Closet, the Cymatic, Hikes, Shakey Graves
POODIE'S HILLTOP ROADHOUSE Woot Talley, Amilia K. Spicer, Gurf Morlix (7:00) **B A**

RED 7 Good Hearts Postcard Club, Ghosts Along the Brazos, the Love Leighs, One Ounce Opera (8:00) **B**
RILEY'S TAVERN Samantha Lynn & the Love Liberation (9:00)
ROADHOUSE Mojo Jam Session
RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE Jeff Lofton Trio (7:00)
THE SAHARA LOUNGE Tim Abbott, Milhouse, Grass (7:00)
SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR Soul Wagon (6:30)

SAXON PUB Eightysixxed (6:30), Patrice Pike, Cari Hutson, Chad Johnson (8:00)
SCHOLZ GARTEN The Cornell Hurd Band (6:00) **A**
THE SCOOT INN Beth Lee, Those-Know-It-Alls & Their Mighty Causes, Christy Hays
SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Blue Finger Disco
SPEAKEASY The Vurdict (9:00)

THE STAGE ON SIXTH Jonny Gray (9:00)
STUBB'S Grounded in Music Benefit w/ Songseed Austin (6:00)
TEXAS BAR & GRILL Open Mic
THE THIRSTY NICKEL Mike V. Trio (4:30), Drew Fish (8:30)
TOM'S TABOOLEY Classical Thursday w/ Lauren Gould, Kelly Waddle (7:30) **A**
TRIPLE CROWN Pepper's Blues (6:00); Hill Country Gentlemen, Victor Holk (10:00)
VOLSTEAD LOUNGE The Shake (10:00)
Z'TEJAS The Brew (6:00)

FRIDAY

AMAYA'S TACO VILLAGE Johnny Gonzales (5:00)
ANDERSON MILL TAVERN Think Tank
ANGEL'S ICEHOUSE White Truck Band **A**
ANTONE'S Black Squeeze, Old Gray Mule, Cedric Burnside (8:00) **B A**
BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Roxy Roca **A**
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Josh Allen (10:30)
BEAUTY BALLROOM Christmapocalypse Costume Party w/ Learning Secrets, the Octopus Project, Auto Body (10:00) **B**
BERNADETTE'S Arockalypse w/ Jarvik 7-11, Fucking Awesome, Drone Collins, the Dickens, Solid Goat (6:00)
BROKEN SPOKE Dance Lessons, Gary P. Nunn (8:00)
BUDDY'S PLACE Son Geezinslaw, Glenn Collins (8:00)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Jay Hollis Band, Carbon 7 (7:00) **B**
CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Warren Hood Holiday Show (6:30) **A**
CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Austin Piazzolla Quintet (6:30) **A**
CHEAPO DISCS Scorpion Child, Tia Carrera, the Well (5:00)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE T-Bone & the Bluetones (10:00)
CHEER UP CHARLIE'S Residual Kid, Feverbones, Cheap Curly, Yum (9:00) **B**
CHERRYWOOD COFFEEHOUSE MC Sweet Tooth, Bumpin' Uglier (7:00) **A**
CHUGGIN' MONKEY Mike V. (4:30), Carson Alexander (9:00)
CLUB 1808 The End w/ Daze of Heaven, Abgal, Perpetual Care, Sex Bruises, Dromez (9:00); Annex: Trailblazer, Aurora Plastics Company, Red Ox, Patient OT, Rigid (9:00)

CLUB DE VILLE White Trash Christmas w/ Pocket FishRmen, Flametrick Subs, Honky, Think No Think, Wovie (10:00)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Robert Kraft Trio, Mike Flanagin Trio (8:30); In the Club: The Blues Specialists (6:30), Speedy Sparks' End of the World Show w/ the Nortons, Texas Mavericks (10:00)
DIRTY DOG BAR Immerse, Truman Syndrome, Dead Earth Politics, Closedhandpromise, Course of Ruin (8:00) **B**
DIZZY ROOSTER Aaron Navarro (6:00)
DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE James Polk (8:00) **A**
EL SOL Y LA LUNA Mariachi Tamazula (8:00) **A**, Tipicos de Cuba (11:00) **A**
ELYSIUM Madchester, the Smiths Tribute w/ DJ AsuraSunil, DJ SynthMaster (9:00)
FAIR BEAN COFFEE Open Mic w/ Amy Zamarripa, Tracy Weinberg, Max Nofziger (5:00)
FLAMINGO CANTINA Tribal Nation (9:00)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Wild Bill & the Lost Knobs (7:00) **A**
FRANK Dawn & Hawkes, the Couch, Language Room (9:30) **A**
FRONTIER BAR Doomsday w/ Halaska (8:00)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Dane Sterling, Scott Angle & the Cold Cold Hearts (6:00)
GRUENE HALL Stewart Mann & the Statesboro Revue, Charlie Robison (8:00) **A**
GÜERO'S TACO BAR Los Flames (6:30)
HILL'S CAFE Cade Baccus **A**
HOLE IN THE WALL Holiday Mountain, Lick Lick, Alien Knife Fight (9:00)
HOLY MOUNTAIN Peligrosa
HOTEL VEGAS Hot Burrito Christmas w/ Space Camp Death Squad, Selena y Los Burritos (9:00)
IRON CACTUS NORTH David Massey
LATITUDE 30 Los Jefes (5:00)
LONG CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS Carolyn Wonderland & Guy Forsyth Holiday Roast
LUCKY LOUNGE Tucker Jameson (10:00)
MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Leeann Atherton (7:00) **A**
MICKEY'S THIRSTY I LOUNGE Austin Rocks (8:00)

A ALL AGES VENUE **R** ROADSHOW **★** RECOMMENDED **H** HEAR MUSIC ONLINE

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End of the World Double Feature
Fri: Free screenings: The Last Man on Earth and 28 Days Later
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TH 12/20 **Fabulous Cherry Bombs**

FR 12/21 **TBA**

9:30PM
SA 12/22 **CHECK 1**

SU 12/23 **TBA**

7:00PM
MO 12/24 **Open Mic Night**

9:00PM
TU 12/25 **Chris Castaneda Project**

10:00PM
WE 12/26 **The Spazmatics**

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12/13 **CLÁSICO**
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PERCUSSION

12/28 **KING LOUIE**

12/27 **TBA**

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Dec 20, Thu

Patrice Pike

Cari Hutson 8:00 - \$10

10:00-\$10
Jordan Mitchell 12:00 - \$5

Eightysixed

6:00-NO COVER Happy Hour

Dec 21, Fri

Joe Ely

with Jane Ellen Bryant

9:00 - \$25/\$30

Malford Milligan

11:30 - \$10/\$12

Denny Freeman

6:00-NO COVER Happy Hour

Dec 22, Sat

Joe Ely

9:00 - \$25/\$30

Jane Ellen Bryant 8:00 - \$25/\$30

THE EVERYDUDES

with **Eddie Beethoven**
and Special Guests 11:30-2:00 - \$10

Dec 23, Sun

THE RESENTMENTS

7:30 - \$10
Richard Jesse John Gaar

3:00 - NO COVER

Walter Tragert

10:30 - \$7

NO COVER Xmas Eve Show!

Amanda Cevallos

11:30

James Bullard

8:00

The Leavers

9:30

Dec 25, Tue

The 10th annual

Miss

Lavelle White's

Christmas

8:00 - \$10

Sabine & Ulrich Ellison

The John Gaar Orchestra

SPECIAL GUEST!

Dec 26, Wed

W.C. Clark

8:30 - \$10

Arthur Brown

the God of Hellfire 11:30-\$10

Jordan Mitchell 1:00-4:5

The Carper Family

6:00 - NO COVER Happy Hour

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Dec 29

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Jeff Lofton 7PM

Brannen Temple 9PM

Monday & Tuesday

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WEDNESDAY

The Lauren Ellis Band 9:30p

THURSDAY 7:30 - Geeks Who Drink Pub Quiz



geeks who drink

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FRIDAY 12/28

Seela 7pm

WALTER TRAGERT 9PM

Christopher Firellano 10:30PM

SATURDAY 12/29

Carl Beckworth 8PM

Erik Larson

& Peacemaker 10PM

MONDAY 12/31

God Adair 6-7:30

Garrett LeBeau and the

Working Mans Revival 10PM

JAN 25TH 8PM

Jimmy

Lafave



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FRI 12/21	TUCKER JAMESON 10PM
SAT 12/22	TAYLOR BAKER & FRIENDS 8PM
SUN 12/23	SOUL SATELLITE 8PM
MON 12/24	12TH ANNUAL MAZEL BALL 8PM
THU 12/27	<i>The Return of Happy Hour featuring 2012 Rock 'N' Roll Hall of Fame Inductees</i> IAN MCLAGAN & THE BUMP BAND 6PM LATER: ERIC WHITE 9PM
MON 12/31	15TH ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S EVE BLOWOUT! 8PM 2013

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FRI 21 DEC	LANGUAGE ROOM (ACOUSTIC) Doors 9:30PM \$10.00 All Ages The Couch, Dawn and Hawkes
THU 27 DEC	GRAHAM WILKINSON Doors 9:00PM \$6.00 All Ages LZ Love, Shawn Nelson Trio
FRI 28 DEC	THE ROLLFAST RAMBLERS Doors 9:00PM \$6.00 All Ages Airplanes Above Us, Nowhere Bound
FRI 29 DEC	THE NEW DAY Doors 9:00PM \$5.00 All Ages Sophisticated Soul Party : Hosted by coolhands & BSears
MON 31 DEC	SCOTT H. BIRAM : NEW YEARS EVE Doors 10:00PM \$15.00 Advance All Ages
WED 02 JAN	FREE WEEK : GINA CHAVEZ Doors 9:00PM All Ages Mauricillo Callejas, Son Armado

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CLUB LISTINGS

FROM FRIDAY

MOHAWK Butcher Bear, Money Chicha, Hard Proof Afrobeat (9:00) **A**

NASTY'S Fuzz Club w/ DJ Sue, The Ugly Beats (10:00)

NEWORLEDEL Kiya Heartwood (7:00)

ONE 2 ONE BAR Garrett LeBeau, Douglas Jay Boyd, Baby Atlas (7:00)

PALMER EVENTS CENTER
Armadillo Christmas Bazaar w/ Sarah Pierce, Brian Keane, Sweet Mary's Blazing Bows, the Band of Heathens (noon) **A**

THE PARISH Dr. Fameus, Blockhead, Nadis Warriors (9:00) **A**

POODIE'S HILLTOP ROADHOUSE
Carl Hutchens (4:30) **A**, Richard Jessee, Uranium Savages (8:30) **A**

POODLE DOG LOUNGE Fatboy Slim

RED 7 End of the World w/ Assacre (J), Spiritual wives, Visitors, Pack of Wolves, Krum Bums, Employer Employee, At All Cost, Recover (7:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Bracken Hale (9:00)

THE SAHARA LOUNGE Jason Blum (7:00); Wilroy Black & the Boss, Bandulus, the Suffers (10:00) **A**

SAM'S TOWN POINT Classic Rock Open Jam w/ Breck English (8:40)

SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR T. Jarrod Bonta (7:00)

SAXON PUB Denny Freeman (6:00), Joe Ely, Malford Milligan (9:00)

THE SCOOT INN Big Bill, Bluebird Specials, the Veers (9:00)

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Vegas Stars

SHOOTERS BILLIARDS NORTH Check 1 (9:00)

SPIDER HOUSE 29TH ST. BALLROOM Burning Avalanche, Thunderosa, Bad Lucifer, Crimson Devils

ST. LOUIS CATHOLIC CHURCH Handel's Messiah w/ Ensemble VIII (7:30)

THE STAGE ON SIXTH Tish Lancaster & the Mizzbehavin Band (8:30)

STRANGE BREW AUSTIN COFFEE Charlie Faye, Ian Moore (8:00) **A**

STUBB'S The Chorderoys, Southbound Drive, O Conqueror (9:00)

TEXAS MIST DJ Joe Hernandez (9:00)

THE THIRSTY NICKEL Jonny Gray (8:30)

TRIPLE CROWN Eric Hisaw (6:00); Robbie & the Robots, Spilt Milk, Spaces (10:00)

SATURDAY

ACL LIVE AT THE MOODY THEATER
Robert Earl Keen's Merry Christmas From the Fam-O-Lee w/ Terri Hendrix, Lloyd Maines (6:30) **A**

AMAYA'S TACO VILLAGE Johnny Gonzales (5:00)

ANDERSON MILL TAVERN Jean-Pierre & the Zydeco Angels

BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Austin City Dolls

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Tea Merchants (10:30)

THE BEARDED LADY White Powder, Bangaar (6:00)

BEERLAND Jonely Bonely, Burnt Skull, the Flesh Lights, the Golden Boys (9:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Dance Lessons, Two Tons of Steel (8:00)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Epitaph of the Savior (8:00) **A**

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Tea Merchants (6:30) **A**

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Jennifer Zavaleta (6:30) **A**

CHEAPO DISCS DJ Tropicana Joe, DJ Hucklebuck, Olivier Giraud, the Bellfuries (5:00)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE
Pot Luck Christmas Party w/ Tessy Lou Williams & the Shotgun Stars, Dr. G. & the Mudcats (7:30)

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CHEER UP CHARLIE'S Les Rav, the Gents, Goat of All Texas, Shmu, Grand Child (9:00) **A**

CHERRYWOOD COFFEEHOUSE
Capital Zen Christmas Party (7:00) **A**

CHUGGIN' MONKEY John Chavez (4:30), Tish & Misbehavin' (9:30)

CLUB 606 Dustin Cavazos, Lucid Minds, Phoolish, Qnique, Hyder, P-Tek

CLUB DE VILLE Mixer Rogers, Polecat

CONANS PIZZA Pamela Allen, the Biscuit Rollers (7:00) **A**

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Scarlett Olson, Mike Flanigin Trio (8:30); In the Club: Redd Volkaert (3:30), Paul Ray & the Cobras (10:00)

DIZZY ROOSTER Mike V. (6:00), Guilty Pleasures (9:00)

DOWN UNDER DELI Ru Coleman (8:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE James Speer (7:00) **A**

ELYSIUM DJ Loki, DJ B-1, DJ Psydiphects, Reverend Kathy Russell, K2

FADÓ IRISH PUB & RESTAURANT Blaggards (9:30)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Skillinjah, DF Dub, Josh Heinrichs (9:00) **A**

GENUINE JOE COFFEEHOUSE Acoustalyn (7:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Bracken Hale (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Hot Club of Cowtown (1:00), Bruce Robison & Kelly Willis Holiday show (9:00) **A**

GUERO'S TACO BAR LeRoi Brothers (6:30)

HILL'S CAFE Rance May **A**

HOLE IN THE WALL Big Britches, Whitey on the Moon (10:00)

HOTEL VEGAS Fairbanks, Nina Diaz, Joseph King (9:00) **A**

LATITUDE 30 Los Jefes (5:00)

LONG CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS Carolyn Wonderland & Guy Forsyth Holiday Roast

LONGHORN CAVERNS Holiday Sing-Along w/ Him & Her (J) (6:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Taylor Baker (9:00)

MOHAWK B the Beat, Rusty Lazer (9:00) **A**

NEWORLEDEL Mark Viator & Susan Maxey (7:00)

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EST. 1994

AUSTIN TEXAS

THU 20TH • 10PM A	FRI 21ST • 10PM A	SAT 22ND • 10PM A
CJ EDWARDS AND THE FINEST KIND THERMOSTAT DJ JAZZ ONE	LICK LICK HOLIDAY MOUNTAIN BABY GOT BACTERIA	BIG BRITCHES WHITEY ON THE MOON
SUN 23RD • 10PM	MON 24TH • 8PM	TUE 25TH • 10PM
BETH LEE AND THE BREAKUPS SAM ARNOLD	CHEAP MUSIC FAST DRINKS LIVE WOMEN	ANNUAL CHRISTMAS KARAOKE PARTY!
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CLUB LISTINGS

NOMAD Johanna Heilman, the Spoils, Los Super Avengers (9:00) **R**

PALMER EVENTS CENTER Armadillo Christmas Bazaar w/ Suzanna Choffel **J**, the Resentments (noon); Beto y Los Fairlanes (8:00) **R A**

THE PARISH Cause in Effect, the Space Crazies, Black Pistol Fire

POODIE'S HILLTOP ROADHOUSE Cheryl Murdock, Debbi Walton (8:00) **A**

RED 7 Outside: From Broken to Blessed, Anacostia, Let the Dead, Fire From the Gods (6:00); Inside: Hired Goons, Crimson Devils, Mondo Generator (9:00) **R**

RILEY'S TAVERN Joel Hofmann Band (9:00)

THE SAHARA LOUNGE Rob & the Nasty Beat, Root Dimension, Zoumoundchi (9:00)

SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR Little Jewford (7:00)

SAXON PUB Joe Ely, the Everydudes w/ A Lubbock Christmas (9:00)

THE SCOOT INN Tides-Waves-Winds, Cass Brostad, Black Owl Society

SFC FARMERS' MARKET AT SUNSET VALLEY Bill Oliver & the Otter Space Band (10:00am)

SFC FARMERS' MARKET DOWNTOWN Charlie Irwin & Fred Smith (10:00am)

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Chinatown

SHOOTERS BILLIARDS CEDAR PARK Ramblin' J's (9:00)

ST. LOUIS CATHOLIC CHURCH Handel's Messiah w/ Ensemble VIII (7:30)

STRANGE BREW AUSTIN COFFEE Naga Valli, Suzanna Choffel **J** (8:00) **R A**

STUBB'S Don Chani (9:00)

THE THIRSTY NICKEL Earl Hinton (4:30), Jonny Gray (8:30)

TRIPLE CROWN Johnny Hootrock, Beer Gnomes, the Johnny Five, the Sonomatics (9:00)

THE WHITE HORSE Josh Lightnin' & the Lone Star Drifters, Matt Farrell, Two Hoots & a Holler

SUNDAY **R**

BAT BAR Amber Lucille **J** (7:00)

BB ROVERS Open Mic (7:00) **A**

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Joe Gee (noon), Irish Tunes Session (9:00)

BEERLAND Meggan Carney (9:00)

BLIND PIG PUB Clay Compania

CHERRYWOOD COFFEEHOUSE Laura Freeman & the Hey Lollies (10:30am) **A**

CHUGGIN' MONKEY Mike V. Trio (4:30)

CLUB DE VILLE Heart & Soul Sound System

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Jon Dee Graham, Dupree (8:30); In the Club: Planet Casper (3:30); In the Club: The Wagoners Holiday Show, Heybale! (8:00)

COTTON CLUB Can't Hardly Playboyz (7:00) **A**

DIZZY ROOSTER John & Derek (6:00), Sonny Wolf (8:30)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura (7:00) **A**

FRIENDS J.T. Coldfire (5:30), Blues Jam (9:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Two Hoots & a Holler (2:00)

GREEN PASTURES RESTAURANT Jacques Vilmain (11:00am) **A**

GRUENE HALL The Kirks (12:30) **A**

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Michael Guerra CD Release (3:00)

HOLE IN THE WALL Sam Arnold (10:00)

HOUSE WINE Justin Landers (6:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Soul Satellite (8:00)

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Java Jazz (11:00am) **A**

THE OASIS The Brew **A**

ONE WORLD THEATRE Preservation Hall Jazz Band (6:00, 8:30) **R A**

PALMER EVENTS CENTER Armadillo Christmas Bazaar w/ Shelley King, Carolyn Wonderland (noon), Albert & Gage (8:00) **A**

POODIE'S HILLTOP ROADHOUSE Tessa Lou Williams & the Shotgun Stars (4:00), Bracken Hale (7:30) **A**

RATTLE INN Backstage Jam w/ George Devore (7:00)

THE SAHARA LOUNGE The Footnotes (8:00)

SALVAGE VANGUARD THEATER Winter Solstice w/ Benoit Pioulard, Steve Arceri, Marcus Rubio & Doug Balliett, Alma Lee, Cinders, Matt Burnett, Thomas McGregor (5:30) **R**

SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR Ava Arenella (11:00am)

SAXON PUB John Gaar (6:00), the Resentments (7:30), Dustin Welch (10:30)

SPEAKEASY Adam Rodgers (10:00)

SPIDER HOUSE 29TH ST. BALLROOM Mic Exchange w/ P-Tek (8:00)

STRANGE BREW AUSTIN COFFEE Lounge Side: Jeff Lofton, Brannen Temple (7:00) **A**

TRIPLE CROWN Open Mic w/ Grant Ewing, Holly Aiken, Nate Hinds

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Jeff Lofton (11:00am) **A**

THE WHITE HORSE The Love Leighs, Vana Mazi, Conjunto Los Pinkys (5:00)

MONDAY **R**

ANTONE'S Blue Monday w/ Derek O'Brien (6:00) **A**

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Open Mic (8:00)

CEDAR STREET Open Mic

CHEZ ZEE Rich Demarco (6:30) **A**

CHUGGIN' MONKEY the Bomb Squad (9:30)

DIZZY ROOSTER Dave Moretz (6:00), Lloyd Miller (9:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Chris Gage

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Driskill Bar: Patricia G. (6:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura (7:00) **A**

EVANGELINE CAFE Charles Thibodeaux & the Austin Cajun Aces (6:30) **A**

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Pink Floyd Happy Hour w/ Mo Pair, Jarle Lillemoen, Gray Parsons, Derek Morris (8:30) **A**

FRIENDS Eric Tessmer (9:30)

HALCYON Roberto Riggio (10:00) **A**

LUCKY LOUNGE Mazel Ball (8:00)

MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS John Wilson (8:00) **A**

NASTY'S DJ Mel

NEWORLEDELI Open Mic w/ MT Hellton (6:00)

ONE 2 ONE BAR MatchMaker Band, Ryan Harkrider & the Nightowls (9:00)

PALMER EVENTS CENTER Armadillo Christmas Bazaar w/ Cienfuegos, the Jitterbug Vipers (noon); Bill Kirchen (8:00) **R A**

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Brent Michael Wood

SPEAKEASY Clay Compania (9:00)

STRANGE BREW AUSTIN COFFEE Lounge Side: Jodi Adair, Scrappy Jud Newcomb, Garrett LeBeau (6:00) **A**

THE THIRSTY NICKEL Jason Patton (9:00)

TRIPLE CROWN David Harris (6:00), Chief & the Doomsday Device (9:00)

VARSIITY BAR The Union League Sessions (9:00) **A**

VICTORY GRILL Open Pro Blues Jam w/ Matthew Robinson, Harold McMillan (9:00)



HAPPY HOUR DAILY 4PM - 8PM
Come try our new wine selections

THURSDAY (12.20)

- Steve Stubblefield (Swains, TN) 6pm
- Open Mic with Lisa Kettyle 8pm

FRIDAY (12.21)

- Wild Bill & the Lost Knobs 7pm
- Jacob Gonzalez & Friends 9pm

SATURDAY (12.22)

- Carter Beckworth 6pm
- Camille Lewis 8pm

SUNDAY (12.23)

- Guilia Millanta 7pm

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Thursday, December 20
DRY CREEK RAMBLERS
bluegrass, Americana

Friday, December 21
THE WARREN HOOD HOLIDAY SHOW
classic Americana holiday show

Saturday, December 22
TEA MERCHANTS
Celtic Christmas

Thursday, December 27
CLAY M'CLINTON
Americana

Friday, December 28
CIENFUEGOS
Afro-Cuban

Saturday, December 29
LOST & NAMELESS ORCHESTRA
fiddle driven folk rock

Thursday, January 3
WILL TAYLOR & STRINGS ATTACHED

Friday, January 4
CARPER FAMILY BAND
Americana, bluegrass

Saturday, January 5
COPA KINGS
swing

WESTGATE

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Thursday, December 20
WILL TAYLOR & STRINGS ATTACHED
the Christmas show

Friday, December 21
AUSTIN PIAZZOLLA QUINTET
tango

Saturday, December 22
JENNIFER ZAVALETA
indie pop jazz

Thursday, December 27
THE LOVE LEIGHS
hot jazz, Americana

Friday, December 28
HARRY BODINE
blues

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CLUB LISTINGS

TUESDAY 12/25

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: James McMurtry, Ephraim Owens Experience (8:30); In the Club: Toni Price (6:30), Dale Watson & His Lone Stars' Christmas Dance (10:00)

HOLY MOUNTAIN Toys for Tots Benefit, Wintercamp Songswap w/ Jonny Burke, Emily Bell

ONE 2 ONE BAR Skirt the Issue ♫, Half Grand, the Moonshiners, Treetop Sailors (7:00)

SAXON PUB Miss Lavelle White's Christmas (8:00)

TOM'S TABOOLEY Open Mic w/ Jesse Gregg (7:00) ♫

TRIPLE CROWN Van Sanchez, Attic Ted, Unsurpassed Profit (9:00)

WEDNESDAY 12/26

AMAYA'S TACO VILLAGE Johnny Gonzales (5:00)

ANGEL'S ICEHOUSE Singer-Songwriter Night (6:00) ♫

BAT BAR Jo Hell (9:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Randy Stern (10:00)

BLIND PIG PUB MC80

BROKEN SPOKE T. Jarrod Bonta, Dance Lessons, Chaparral w/ Jeff Hughes (6:00)

CEDAR STREET The Spazmatics (9:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Kent Finlay's Songwriters Circle (11:00)

CHUGGIN' MONKEY Danny Smith (4:30), Aaron Navarro (9:30)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Barbara K; Trube, Farrell & Sniz (8:30); In the Club: The Jitterbug Vipers (6:30) ♫, Jon Dee Graham, James McMurtry (10:30)

DIZZY ROOSTER Bob Floyd (6:00), the Bomb Squad (9:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Frank & the Station Masters

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Driskill Bar: Bruce Smith (8:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Nick Connolly (7:00) ♫

ELEPHANT ROOM Jazz Pharoahs (6:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Mau Mau Chaplains (8:00)

FRIENDS Swamp Sauce (8:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Weldon Henson (9:00)

GRUENE HALL The Georges (6:00) ♫

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Larry Monroe Radio Show (6:30)

HALCYON Lauren Silva (10:00) ♫

HOLE IN THE WALL Willy & the Surroundings, Harrison Brown, Chris Ruest (9:00)

HOLY MOUNTAIN Seth Sherman

HOTEL VEGAS Rat Trap Ball w/ Motel Ball Band, Rat Trap (9:00)

NASTY'S Dirty Soul & Funk w/ DJ Chulo (10:00)

ONE 2 ONE BAR Karl Morgan ♫, Black Red Black, 1UP (7:00)

PEDRO'S PLACE La Moña Loca (9:30)

POODIE'S HILLTOP ROADHOUSE Ulrich Ellison (4:00); No Bad Days Open Mic w/ B.B. Morse (6:00) ♫

REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE "Frankly" Singing w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)

RILEY'S TAVERN The Loose Hinges (9:00)

THE SAHARA LOUNGE Alien Knife Fight, St. James Society (9:00)

SAM'S TOWN POINT Open Blues Jam w/ Breck English (8:40)

SAXON PUB Johnny Nicholas & the Hellbent w/ Cindy Cashdollar (6:00), W.C. Clark, Cari Hutson (9:00)

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Encore

SPEAKEASY Clay Compania (9:00)

STRANGE BREW AUSTIN COFFEE Lounge Side: Lauren Ellis Band (9:30) ♫

THE THIRSTY NICKEL Mike V. Trio (4:30), Lloyd Miller (9:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Jo Beth Henderson (6:00)

VARSITY BAR Jack Higginbotham (9:00) ♫

Z'TEJAS Randy Weeks, Stephen Doster, Bill Carter (6:00)

THURSDAY 12/27

AMAYA'S TACO VILLAGE Johnny Gonzales (5:00)

ANTONE'S Alumni Winter Ball w/ Kathy Valentine, Larry Fulcher, Scott Nelson, George Rains, Mike Flanigin, Marcia Ball, Derek O'Brien, Denny Freeman, Malford Milligan, Lou Ann Barton (7:30) ♫

BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Brent Michael Wood

BAR MIRABEAU Paula Maya ♫ (7:00)

BAT BAR Wrecker Lee (7:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Kristen Smith (8:00)

BLIND PIG PUB John Prather (4:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Tony Harrison, Dance Lessons, Jesse Dayton ♫ (6:00)

CEDAR STREET Eddie Schmidt w/ LynZ Wells (6:00), Fabulous Cherry Bombs (9:00)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Dry River Religion (10:00)

CHERRYWOOD COFFEEHOUSE Tony Redman (7:00) ♫

CHUGGIN' MONKEY Amber Lucille ♫ (4:30), Cody Rowe (9:30)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Dan Dyer ♫, Tameca Jones (8:30); In the Club: The Whiskey Sisters (6:30), O-A, Zapata!, Soulhat (10:00)

COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa & Bachata Lessons, DJ Alvaro (8:30)

DIZZY ROOSTER John Chavez (6:00), Aaron Navarro (9:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws

DOWN UNDER DELI Open Mic w/ Bob Sarnataro ♫ (8:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Robert Kelley (8:00) ♫

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Starlings (TN) (6:00) ♫, Open Mic w/ Lisa Kettyle (8:00) ♫

FRANK Shawn Nelson, LZ Love, Graham Wilkinson (9:30) ♫

GIDDY UPS Open Mic w/ Greg Duffy (8:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Alvin Crow (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Cody Canada & the Departed (8:00) ♫ ♫

GÜERO'S TACO BAR The Lost Counts ♫ (6:30)

HOLY MOUNTAIN Camp Lo ♫

HOTEL VEGAS Graham Wilkinson (7:00), Tump (9:00)

KICK BUTT COFFEE Open Mic w/ Ernie B. (7:00) ♫

LUCKY LOUNGE Ian McLagan & the Bump Band, Eric White (6:00)

MIMI'S CAFE Kim Kafka (6:30)

MOHAWK LNS Crew (9:00)

ONE 2 ONE BAR Lauren Silva, Progress, Dahebegebees (7:00)

PATSY'S CAFE Pamela Allen, the Biscuit Rollers (6:30)

POODIE'S HILLTOP ROADHOUSE Jordan Mitchell, Woot Talley, Jerry Kirk (6:00) ♫

RED 7 Illustrations, the Buried Life (9:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Pepper's Blues (9:00)

ROADHOUSE Mojo Jam Session

RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE Jeff Lofton Trio (7:00)

SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR Luke Hill (6:30)

SAXON PUB Eightysixxed (6:30), Patrice Pike (8:00)

SCHOLZ GARTEN The Cornell Hurd Band (6:00) ♫

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Austin City Dolls

SPEAKEASY The Vurdit (9:00)

THE STAGE ON SIXTH Jonny Gray (9:00)

STUBB'S The Sour Notes ♫, Royal Teeth (9:00) ♫

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Open Mic

THE THIRSTY NICKEL Mike V. Trio (4:30), Nothing Left (8:30)

TOM'S TABOOLEY Classical Thursday w/ Lauren Gould, Kelly Waddle (7:30) ♫

TRAILER SPACE RECORDS Nicaragua (7:00) ♫

TRIPLE CROWN For Elise (6:00), Carlton Pride & Zion (10:00)

VOLSTEAD LOUNGE The Shake (10:00)

Z'TEJAS The Brew (6:00)

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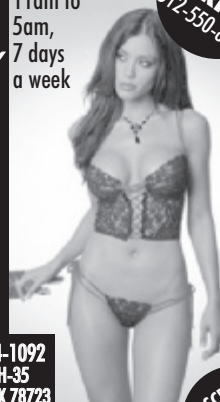
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a SHOT in the DARK

LAST WINTER.... SPIDERHOUSE

You: Beautiful, brown hair, at bar.
Me: Blonderedhead on the way out. Intense connection...I bolted!
Later ILuvVideo on Airport. You w/ redheaded boy, me with ex. You did a double take! I'm still curious!
When: Saturday, February 4, 2012.
Where: Spiderhouse, ILuvVideo.
You: Man. Me: Woman. #905702

HANOVER'S BIKINI CONTEST

Sat next to you and friends. You broke your phone, tried to cheer you up. See you there again Friday?? I think I first met you at Andrew's Birthday party? **When: Friday, December 7, 2012.**
Where: Hanover's. You: Woman. Me: Man. #905701

CURBSITTING PRETTY PECANSTFEST

You checked me out while sitting on a curb with friends across from patchwork clothing tent. my now exGF mean mugged you. Love for you to finish checking me out now! **When: Sunday, September 30, 2012. Where: curb pecan st festival. You: Woman. Me: Woman. #905699**

PUBCRAWL RAINEY STREET

You were Padme Amidala changed to Denzel Washington from MA. I was Cliff Huxtable. I liked you and wanted to visit with you more but lost you at Agora. **When: Friday, December 7, 2012. Where: Bangers, Javelina, Agora. You: Woman. Me: Man. #905698**

FREDA'S RESTAURANT

You came by my table in the bar and asked if I owned an establishment on Volente road by the lake. Let's meet when there is more time to talk. **When: Thursday, December 6, 2012. Where: Freda's Restaurant. You: Woman. Me: Man. #905697**

MCDONALDS CEDAR PARK

Mom always taught me.. nothing ventured nothing gained... I should've listened.. You were hot.. no denial. Red shirt.. jeans.. two year old in tow. You're married.. I am too.. interested? **When: Tuesday, December 4, 2012. Where: McDonalds Cedar Park. You: Woman. Me: Man. #905696**

LOOKING FOR RB

I like that you didn't hit my bike, and I'd like to buy you a drink for it. To prove it's you, what CD did you leave me? **When: Sunday, November 11, 2012. Where: 5th & Colorado (Outside the Hanger). You: Woman. Me: Man. #905695**

BERNADETTE'S BAR SATURDAY

Wanted to talk 2u more, however due to circumstances unknown, clammed up! Hope you didn't think I was snubbing, though kind of was. Hopefully see you tonight at Club 1808? **When: Saturday, December 1, 2012. Where: Bernadette's Bar. You: Woman. Me: Man. #905694**

WILD WEST FRIDAY

We two-stepped past midnight at Wild West. I had to call it an early night. Hoping we get the chance to dance again. **When: Friday, November 16, 2012. Where: Wild West. You: Woman. Me: Man. #905693**

LOOKING FOR RB

About a month ago my bike was parked outside the Hanger on 5th and you didn't hit it. To prove it's you, tell me what CD you left for me. **When: Friday, November 2, 2012. Where: 5th Street. You: Woman. Me: Man. #905692**

WILD WEST FRIDAY

Wild West on a Friday evening. We two-stepped past midnight. Wondering when I can dance again with the girl from Michigan. **When: Friday, November 16, 2012. Where: Wild West. You: Woman. Me: Man. #905691**

The LUV DOC



"Guns!"

Dear LuvDoc,

Why are crazy people allowed to buy assault weapons in America? Is it because Americans are crazy, or is it because they're just stupid?

- Donal

Here in America, Donal, we have a little thing called the Second Amendment. It says that because a well-regulated militia is necessary to the security of a free state, the government is not allowed to infringe on our right to keep and bear arms. Admittedly, that little line of somewhat arcane and vague prose has bitten Americans on the ass more than a few times. It's sort of the Leviticus of the American Bill of Rights: a touchstone for gun owners, which, at its heart, is completely outdated. No matter what the *Red Dawn* trailer would have you believe, we're far beyond the era when a well-regulated militia - or for that matter even a poorly regulated militia - can provide our security. A bunch of Jethros with squirrel guns - or for that matter Bushmaster .223s - aren't going to do much damage against a helicopter gunship or a cruise missile. We might like to believe a plucky band of resistance fighters would be a match for modern military armaments, but it's a myth - just like Luke Skywalker dropping a proton torpedo into the exhaust vent of the Death Star. Come on Lucas ... we're not fucking idiots. So really, using the well-regulated militia clause as a defense of gun ownership is a big crock of shit. If we were really counting on militias to provide our security, we would at least get them bazookas or Stinger missiles or a GED - and if you think a lone gunman can do some damage with a Bushmaster .223, imagine what he could do with a bazooka. That is exactly why we don't allow people to purchase bazookas - because even though most bazooka owners might be completely sane, safe, law-abiding citizens, the chance that one of them won't be is enough incentive to ban bazookas entirely. And really - who wouldn't want to go hunting with a bazooka? Think about the time it would save in field dressing alone. Of course, the same could be said of the Bushmaster .223. It may not have the shock and awe of a bazooka, but it's also a portable, lightweight, and highly efficient killing machine. Yes, it's fun for target practice, but so is a bazooka. You have to draw the line somewhere, and for decades Americans have been content to let that line be drawn by the gun lobby. Does that make us stupid or crazy? I'd say it's a little of both.

NEED SOME ADVICE FROM THE LUV DOC?
SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO lurvdoc@austinchronicle.com

free! MEET **CHRONICLE** READERS WHO SHARE YOUR ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS
PROFILE OF THE WEEK

ECCENTRIC STEAMPUNK NERD

I'm a believer in its what's inside that counts but please take care of yourself Gender isn't an issue prefer feminine spirit.

vale_123, 31

BROWSE through tons more pics and profiles at austinchronicle.com/personals

COMIX

PEPPERMINT TEARS

RYAN HENNESSEE 2012



MR. SMARTY PANTS KNOWS

A traditional Christmas dinner in early England was a pig's head prepared with mustard.

It wasn't until 1917 that Joyce C. Hall of the Hallmark Company introduced a thicker paper with holiday designs to replace tissue paper for wrapping presents.



The Latin alphabet lacks a letter for the English sound "th," so early writers borrowed a runic letter called thorn, which looks like a downward-facing triangle on a stick. Thorn eventually fell out of use because it looked too much like the letter "Y." It has stuck around, however, in phrases like, "Ye Olde Christmas Shoppe." The first word is not meant to be pronounced "ye" but rather "the."

In 1995, the WWE introduced wrestler Xanta Klaus, Santa's evil twin from the South Pole who steals presents. "Million Dollar Man" Ted DiBiase paid off Xanta to attack Savio Vega. The wrestler later went under the name Balls Mahoney, "the Chair Swinging Freak."

Alice in Wonderland was a Christmas present given in November 1864 to Alice Liddell from Charles Dodgson, who wrote the story under his pen name, Lewis Carroll.

This is information that Mr. Smarty Pants read in a book, a magazine, or the news-paper; heard on the radio; saw on television; or overheard at a party. Got facts? Write to Mr. Smarty Pants at the Chronicle, or email mrpants@austinchronicle.com.



Diabetes can be unpredictable.



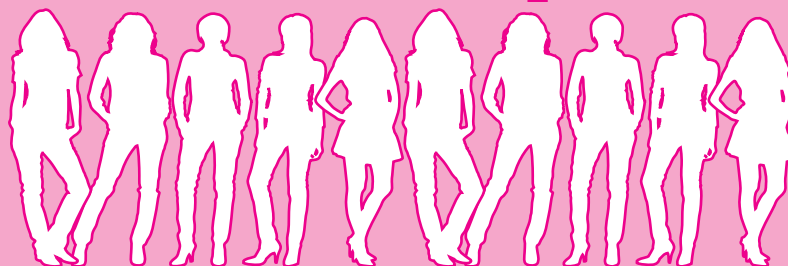
A clinical research study testing an investigational medication that may help people with type 2 diabetes better manage blood glucose levels.

Those who have type 2 diabetes, and are currently taking metformin alone or with other diabetic medications are invited to find out if they may qualify for a clinical research study to determine the safety and effectiveness of an investigational medication to manage diabetes. To find out if you may qualify, call the area physician below:

Contact: Texas Diabetes & Endocrinology
Phone 512-334-3505
Web: www.texasdiabetes.com

No insurance required
Compensation for time and travel may be available

Seeking a different kind of birth control pill?



Explore your options.

Local doctors are studying a new type of low dose investigational birth control pill.

No-cost study birth control medication for a year.

No cost study related care.

Reimbursement for time and travel.

512-374-0677

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Avila Creative Soccer offers soccer training for kids of all ages. We are looking for a Part-Time Receptionist for our Lakeway facility.

He/she will be responsible for handling front office and administration duties, including customer care, answering phone calls, handling class inquiries and sales.

IF INTERESTED, DOWNLOAD AND FILL-OUT APPLICATION FROM avila-soccer.com/pdfs/Receptionist_Job.pdf

EMAIL TO ERYCK@AVILASOCCER.COM or CALL 512.924.5715

AD of the WEEK

Ulcerative Colitis?

Is it hard to control your symptoms using your current medication?

If so, you may be eligible to participate in a new clinical research study.

For more info:
512-374-0677
INFO@PQRinc.com

Eligible participants must be:

- Between the ages of 18 and 75 years of age
- Been diagnosed with mild or moderate UC
- Having symptoms even though taking medications

CASTING

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ACTORS, DANCERS, MODELS WORK TODAY!

Local Production Company increasing talent registry for holiday parties, touring shows and events. All styles wanted. Call 512-743-4568 for immediate consideration or send photo bio and contact info to jobs@tropicalevents.com

COMPUTER/TECHNICAL

COMPUTER

Advanced Micro Devices, Inc. (NYSE: AMD) is a global semiconductor company that designs, develops, markets, & supports a wide range of microprocessors, graphic processing units, chipsets & related products. Resumes are being accepted for the following position in Austin, TX:

PRE-SILICON VALIDATION ENGINEER-TX2112: Perform pre-silicon verification to validate ATE patterns on microprocessors & GPUs. Send resume with job title & code referenced to: **AMD, Mail Stop 101, One AMD Place, P.O. Box 3453, Sunnyvale, CA 94088.**

COMPUTER

Electronic Arts, Inc. has the following job openings in Austin, TX:

- **SENIOR GAMEPLAY PROGRAMMER (SWE III)** (Design and engineer large scale software systems for massively multiplayer online game technology)
- **SENIOR MANAGER – Security** (Acts as main security advisor to BioWare CTO)
- **APPLICATION ENGINEER** (ETL - extraction, transformation, and loading - design in a functional domain or projects running across domains)

For more info and to apply, go to jobs.ea.com

PROGRAMMER

Texas EZPAWN, L.P. is recruiting for a Lead Programmer Analyst in Austin, TX. Duties include development of new software applications and maintenance of existing software applications and project management of medium to large software development projects. Submit resumes referencing the job title and code 122305 to pra_jobs@ezcorp.com. EZPAWN is an EOE.

TECHNICAL

Hewlett-Packard Company is accepting resumes in Austin, TX for **TECHNOLOGY CONSULTANT** (Ref. #AUSEQU11). Provide technology consulting to external customers in the design and Implementation of HP's Universal Configuration Management DataBase (uCMDB). Work with internal project teams on proposal efforts. Mail resume to **Hewlett-Packard Company, 5400 Legacy Drive, H1-6F-61, Plano, TX 75024**. Resume must include Ref. #, full name, email address & mailing address. No phone calls please. Must be legally authorized to work in the U.S. without sponsorship. EOE.

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ONLINE CLASSES ATTEND COLLEGE ONLINE from Home. *Medical, *Business, *Criminal Justice, *Hospitality. Job placement assistance. Computer available. Financial Aid if qualified. SCHEV authorized. Call 800-481-9472 www.CenturaOnline.com (AAN CAN)

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REACH 5 MILLION hip, forward-thinking consumers across the U.S. When you advertise in alternative newspapers, you become part of the local scene and gain access to an audience you won't reach anywhere else. http://www.altweeklies.com/ads

FOOD SERVICE

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will accept offers beginning December 3, 2012 through January 11, 2013 at 5:00 pm for the operation of a portable/mobile food service concession operation at McKinney Falls State Park and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Headquarters building adjacent to McKinney Falls State Park grounds. Persons interested in submitting a proposal may request a short-term prospectus packet (RFP) by calling (512) 243-1643 or writing to McKinney Falls State Park, 5808 McKinney Falls Parkway, Austin, Texas 78744.

FRAME CARPENTERS NEEDED

Experienced Frame Carpenters needed. Contact Jay Clark for immediate opportunity at 281-635-8874. Work will be in NW Austin. **Olivermetrobuilding.com**

KIDS ENTERTAINER

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DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST (TICKETING) FRIENDS OF ACL KLRU seeks admin for donor benefit fulfillment for ACL tapings & events. Experience w/ticketing systems. mblackman@klru.org/fax 512.233.5818

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STUDIES

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Explore your options. Local doctors are studying a new type of low dose investigational birth control pill. • No-cost study birth control medication for a year. • No cost study related care. • Reimbursement for time and travel.

512-374-0677

DIABETES STUDY

A clinical research study testing an investigational insulin that may help people with type 2 diabetes better manage blood glucose levels.

Those who have type 2 diabetes, and are currently taking metformin alone or with other diabetic medications are invited to find out if they may qualify for a clinical research study to determine the safety and effectiveness of an investigational medication to manage diabetes. To find out if you may qualify, call the area physician below:

Contact:

Texas Diabetes & Endocrinology

Phone: 512-334-3505

www.texasdiabetes.com

No insurance required Compensation for time and travel may be available. Labwork and other health procedures at no cost.

EMPLOYMENT Looking for a new job? Have to hire a new employee? Check out the great job opportunities in this week's *Austin Chronicle*. If you would like information on how to place an ad, call 454-5765.

DONOR PROGRAM

SEMEN DONORS NEEDED

Fairfax Cryobank seeks college educated men 18-39 to participate in 6 month donor program. Avg. \$150 per specimen. Visit our website for free application or apply online at **www.123donate.com**

ULCERATIVE COLITIS

ULCERATIVE COLITIS?

Is it hard to control your symptoms using your current medication?

If so, you may be eligible to participate in a new clinical research study.

Eligible participants must be:

- Between the ages of 18 and 75 years of age
 - Been diagnosed with mild or moderate UC
 - Having symptoms even though taking medications
- For more info:

512-374-0677

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RESEARCH You've given blood for money. Donated plasma for money. We won't even mention all the other things you've done for a little extra cash. Make it easy on yourself and check out The Austin Chronicle's Clinical Studies Page.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

The Austin Chronicle

will be closed Monday, Dec. 24th and Tuesday, Dec. 25th.

Classifieds deadline is Wednesday, Dec. 26th at 5pm.




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Near 6th & Lamar in Clarksville
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room, gas cooking, 2 master
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Whole Foods, 1/1 \$1585, 2/2 \$2973.

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Concrete floors. 2/2 \$799, 4/2 \$1239.

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1950's studio, ABP! \$850

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Near Stacy Park, 1/1 \$785, 2/2 \$1170, Hardwood floors! Free
cable!

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and best wishes
for the New Year!
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APARTMENT/ CONDO cont.

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\$99 Deposit
Bathroom outside bedroom
On bus route
Close to restaurants
1 Bedroom from \$495
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Ron Jon Apt Mon

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Studios & 1/1s. Pit bulls accepted.
Wood Flooring and granite
countertops 512-494-4343

SOUTH

3-2 South Central, W/D
connections only \$865! Call
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SOUTH

#1 AustinCool.com
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W/D incl, walk to shops/cafes-
cool 78704 \$896.

SOUTH

4-4 second floor unit
built for friends to live together.
Now taking pets. Washer &
Dryer provided. CA/CH, private
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ing Place, \$1,050 + there is
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Matthews Properties, Rollo 731-
6799, matthewsproperties@
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List of available
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courteous Realtor. Call Rick @
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2bed-2bth apartment
Travis Heights – 78704
E.Z. walk to S. Congress
1025sf + w/d cons.
\$1170 per mo.
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SOUTH CENTRAL

Live Weird Realty

Large 2bed-2bth apt
Best of both worlds
mile to Whole Foods
or Zilker Park! Granite,
wood floors, stainless
appliances w/d included
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Be the first to live in one
of these incredible
BRAND NEW apts in
the heart of 78704!!
prices starting @
\$1295 for 1bed-1bth
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ZILKER PARK

50FT TO HIKE-AND- BIKE

TRAIL ENTRANCE

Newly remodeled community.
Black-on-black appliances.
Gas cooking, large private
deck! Pet and bicycle friendly
neighborhood.
1/1... \$883
2/1 \$1,172
CALL TEAM REAL ESTATE
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1 Bedroom \$549
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Resort style pool,
Hot tub,
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Bus route on property,
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Ron Jon-Broker

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Free Cable is back!!!
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Two sparkling pools
Onsite laundry
That's right 2-1's from \$710

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SOUTHEAST

Old building built on concrete
slab and steel frame made into
warehouse style apt. modern
and raw! exposed metal
accents., stained, polished
concrete floors throughout!
modern appliances, track
lights, gas cooking and jacuzzi
jet tub in each unit. custom
paint your space! musician/
artists friendly.. south/east near
downtown. rare units available!
1/1 \$679, 2/2 \$879, 4/2 \$1239
(huge layout!) Call Team Real
Estate for show! 512-416-8333.
www.austindowntownliving.
com

SOUTHEAST

Minutes to
Downtown, 1/1 \$595, 2/1 \$645.
Water paid, gated, pool. Call
Rick 447-7368, Properties Plus.

SOUTHWEST

AustinCool.com
(512)693-7231

UPSCALE 1/1 \$845

2/1 \$925

3/2 \$1,250

with W/D connections, indoor
full-size basketball court,
huge fitness center with
classes.
Sunset Valley area
AUSTINCOOL.COM



SOUTHWEST #1 Austincool.
com 693-7231 Heavily wooded
and hilly park setting, large
decks overlooking Barton
Creek greenbelt. Big dogs!
Earthy setting, remodeled
kitchens, \$844.

SOUTHWEST #1 AustinCool.
com 693-7231 Luxury on
canyon park land. Wet weather
waterfalls and swimming
holes, minutes to downtown.
Lavish condo construction
with soundproofing. Large
updated kitchen with gas
range, oversized bathrooms,
bright with large windows.
Huge 1/1, \$1,125includes cable
and valet trash.



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pool, multimedia clubhouse,
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T1 access, fitness center, vol-
leyball courts ... your apartment
doesn't have amenities does
it? Find one that does in *The
Austin Chronicle* Real Estate
section.

DUPLEX/HOUSES

CENTRAL

2-1, clean, nice 4-plx 2013
Cullen Av., W&D, CACH, pets
negot. \$785/mo. Avail. NOW
Call Angelika (512) 627-2288

CENTRAL Tarrytown – Gi-
gantic 1/1 in 4-plex, Plain Jane
exterior, wooden floors, large
common yard area for gardens
or just relaxing under the trees,
windows everywhere, large
kitchen, NO W/D connections,
no laundry, window a/c's. Cats
welcome! – NO DOGS! \$950.
2300 Enfield. Matthews Proper-
ties, Rollo 731-6799, matthews-
properties@yahoo.com

ROOMMATES

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Browse hundreds of online
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Find your roommate
with a click of the mouse!
Visit: <http://www.Roommates.com> (AAN CAN)

SOUTH

Roommate Matching **All Bills
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Austin Area Apt Locators.
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LAKE MEDINA Medina Lake
Community, 1 acre only \$223
mo, close to Bandera, 830-
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200 ac
Atascosa County. Pleasanton
area. Excellent hunting & cattle
ranch. 830-570-1121

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Clothing, stickers, patches
pins, jewelry, corsets.
2101 S. 1st.
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PSORIASIS VITILIGO

Medical lamp for skin diseases:
Vitiligo, Psoriasis, and Eczema.
Also for scalp Psoriasis. For
sale at eBay for only \$150
directly from the manufacturer.
Search at eBay for UVB lamp
or Psoriasis lamp. seller ID
psoriasis_vitiligo_uv_b_lamps

FOR SALE

U2, Bob Dylan,
Willie ... did you miss out on
these shows? Make sure it
doesn't happen again. *The
Austin Chronicle's* For Sale
section has all the shows you
can ask for.

GENERAL

RETIRE WITHIN 12 MONTHS

- Internet business
opportunity with an event in
January 2013 in Austin.
- You will be taught how to
use the internet for financial
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people are generating an
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view an income disclosure
visit:
<http://www.alifeoffreedom.com/retire>

MOTOR

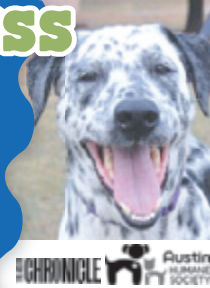
2003 TOYOTA TACOMA

104648 miles, strong engine,
clean and very well
maintained. Clear title \$4,000
Call : (813) 501-2857

DUCHESS

Pet of the Week

Check out my spots! Cool, huh?
I really get along with people
and am constantly trying to
please. Housetrained, crate-
trained, love to ride in cars and
go for walks – gee, what more
could you want in a great dog?



124 W. Anderson Ln. 512/646-7387 ext. 105

MINDY

Mindy was found as a kitten
living in a colony of cats. She can
be a little shy initially until she
is picked up and loved on. She
has the softest little purr. Mindy
would love to snuggle up with you
this holiday season!



260-SPCA CALL FOR HOURS
909 S. BAGDAD RD., LEANDER, TX
CENTRALTEXASSPCA.COM



2004 NISSAN MURANO

In good shape, clean
carfax, 130K mi.
\$3800 call me after
6pm or text any
time at 5139001069

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WORLD!** Wanted: Super
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Rescue Ranch 830-589-7544 or
check out our dogs at :
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TICKETS/ ENTERTAINMENT



ALL

- *...ERIC CLAPTON...*
- *...DIANA KRALL...*
- *.CARRIE UNDERWOOD.*
- *.LONGHORN BASKETBALL.*
- *.SIGUR ROS.*
- *..SAN ANTONIO SPURS..*
- *.LUCINDA WILLIAMS*
- *.DIANA ROSS.*
- *.BILL MAHER.*
- *.WWE RAW.*
- *.ED SHEERAN.*
- *.SARAH BRIGHTMAN.*
- *...BON JOVI..*
- *.BB KING.*
- *.TAYLOR SWIFT.*
- *.YES.*
- *.G. ALLMAN/J.HIATT.*
- *..JUSTIN BIEBER.*
- *..MILLION DOLLAR QUAR-
TET..*
- *..KEANE.*
- *.WILLIE NELSON.*
- *..LOS LOBOS..*
- *.LION KING..*
- *.JANE MONHEIT.*
- *..BRIAN REGAN..*
- WWW.BESTTIX.COM
512-458-9700

TICKETS We "B" Tickets
* Best Seats * Best Prices *
* The XX * Matchbox 20 *
Allman/Hiatt
Russell Peters * BB King *
Diana Ross
Yes * D. Sedaris * Lisa
Lampantelli
Bon Jovi * V8 Supercars *
Taylor Swift
Bill Maher * Lion King * Gypsy
Kings
Los Lobos * Eric Clapton *
Chicago
Pickup/Mail Order 448-2303

WANTED TO BUY

WANTED by a little old lady in
tennis shoes. A small electric
portable typewriter that works.
512-451-3771

LEGAL

Application has been
made with the Texas
Alcoholic Beverage
Commission for a
Mixed Beverage
Permit and a Mixed
Beverage Late Hours
Permit by Adam Bryan
dba Motel, to be lo-
cated at 1902 B E. MLK
Blvd, Austin, Travis,
Texas. Officers of said
corporation are Adam
Bryan, President,
Jeff Wheeler, Vice-
President.

CAUSE NO. C-1-PB-12-000442
NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS
HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST
THE ESTATE OF BOBBIE
RAMEY BRITTON Notice
is hereby given that original
Letters Testamentary for the
Estate of Bobbie Ramey Brit-
ton, Deceased, were issued on
December 6, 2012, in Cause
Number C-1-PB-12-000442,
pending in the Probate Court
Number One of Travis County,
Texas, to:
Gloria Jean Cline
The residence of such Inde-
pendent Executor is in Dallas
County, Texas. The address is:
1024 Townsend Lane
DeSoto, TX 75115
All persons having claims
against this Estate, which is
currently being administered,
are required to present them to
Gloria Jean Cline, Independent
Executor of the Estate of
Bobbie Ramey Britton, c/o the
office of Joel B. Bennett, P.C.,
316 W. 12th, Suite 101, Austin,
Texas 78701.
Dated the 12th day of Decem-
ber, 2012.
By: /s/ Catalina E. Cantu
Attorneys for Gloria Jean Cline

CAUSE NO. C-1-PB-12-001729
NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS
HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST
THE ESTATE OF ROBERT
ANTHONY RAMIREZ Notice is
hereby given that original Let-
ters of Independent Administra-
tion for the Estate of Robert
Anthony Ramirez, Deceased,
were issued on December 11,
2012, in Cause Number C-1-
PB-12-001729, pending in the
Probate Court Number One of
Travis County, Texas, to:
Roberto Ramirez Sr.
The residence of such Indepen-
dent Administrator is in Travis
County, Texas. The address is:
1301 S.6th Street
Austin, TX 78721
All persons having claims
against this Estate, which is
currently being administered,
are required to present them
to Roberto Ramirez Sr.,
Independent Administrator of
the Estate of Robert Anthony
Ramirez, c/o the office of Joel
B. Bennett, P.C., 316 W. 12th,
Suite 101, Austin, Texas 78701.
Dated the 12th day of Decem-
ber, 2012.
By: /s/ Catalina E. Cantu
Attorneys for Roberto Ramirez
Sr.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS
CAUSE NO: D-1-FM-12-006830
To: MIGUEL RANGEL and
to all who it may concern,
Respondent(s); GREETINGS:
YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You
may employ an attorney. If
you or your attorney do not
file a written answer with the
clerk who issued this citation
by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday
next following the expiration
of twenty days after you were
served this citation and peti-
tion, a default judgment may be
taken against you.
YOU ARE HEREBY COMMAND-

ED to appear and answer before the Honorable District Court, 200TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, Travis County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said County in Austin, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after expiration of twenty days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the ORIGINAL PETITION IN SUIT AFFECTING THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP, TRAVIS COUNTY STANDING ORDER of LIZA RANGEL Petitioner(s), filed in said court on DECEMBER 10, 2012, against GUSTAVO MELCHOR Respondent(s), and said suit being number D-1-FM-12-006830 the docket of said Court, and entitled "IN THE INTEREST OF WILLIAM G MELCHOR AND GISELE M CONTRERAS, CHILDREN", the nature of which suit is a request ORIGINAL PETITION IN SUIT AFFECTING THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the CHILD's interest which will be binding on you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the CHILD's adoption.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, December 10, 2012.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA

Travis County District Clerk
Travis County Courthouse
1000 Guadalupe,
P.O. Box 679003 (78767)
Austin, Texas 78701
PREPARED BY: ANDRADE ELIAS
REQUESTED BY:
LIZA RANGEL
C/O V.L.S.
816 CONGRESS AVE. STE 701
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS
TO ALL PERSONS TO ALL
PERSONS INTERESTED IN
THE ESTATE OF DAVID ALLEN
PRIEBE Deceased, No. C-1-
PB-12-001122 in Probate Court
Number One of Travis County,
Texas.
PRYDE DOUGLAS PRIEBE The
alleged heir(s) at law in the
above numbered and entitled
estate, filed on December
6, 2012, an Application to
Determine Heirship & Letters of
Independent Administration in
the said estate and request(s)
that said Court determine who
are the heirs and only heirs of
the said DAVID ALLEN PRIEBE,
Deceased, and their respective
shares and interests in such
estate.

Said application will be heard
and acted on by said Court
at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the
first Monday next after the
expiration of ten days from date
of publication of this citation,
at the County Courthouse in
Travis County, Texas.
All persons interested in said
estate are hereby cited to
appear before said Honorable
Court at said above mentioned
time and place by filing a
written answer contesting such
application should they desire
to do so.

If this citation is not served
within 90 days after date of its
issuance, it shall be returned
unserved.
GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND
THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at
office in Travis County, Texas,
on December 06, 2012.
Dana DeBeauvoir
County Clerk,
Travis County, Texas
P.O. BOX 149325
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78714-9325
By Deputy: /s/ M. LIMON

No. C-1-PB-12-001762 IN THE
ESTATE OF TERRY DARWIN
MAY, DECEASED
IN PROBATE COURT NO. ONE
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that
original letters testamentary
for the Estate of Terry Darwin
May were issued on the 29th
day of November 2012, in the
proceeding indicated above,
which is still pending. All per-
sons having claims against the
Estate being administered are
required to present the same
within the time prescribed by
law. Address claims to: Estate

of Terry Darwin May, DeLane
Ibarra, Independent Executor,
8102 Bounty Trail, Austin, Texas
78749. Dated the 21st day of
December 2012 by Jacquelyn
Wilson, 609 W. 10th Street,
Austin, Texas 78701, Attorney
for Independent Executor,
DeLane Ibarra.

NOTICE The City of Manor
Planning and Zoning Com-
mission will meet on January
9, 2013 at 6:30PM at 201 E.
Parsons in the City Council
Chambers.
The City of Manor City Council
will meet at on January 16, 2013
at 7:00PM at 201 E. Parsons St.
in the City Council Chambers.
Consideration and possible
action to amend Ordinance
185 and 185H to include "Food
Court" as a Conditional Use
Permit, including specific
minimum requirements for
consideration and approval .
Staff: Thomas Bolt

**NOTICE OF ABANDONED
VEHICLE** Attention the follow-
ing vehicle(s) will be sold at
public auction if not claimed
within 45 days.
STOCK #F: B212061
2012 VIP SCOOTER
NO LP
V.I.N L9NTELKDXC1005612
TOWNED FROM: 103 E. 7TH ST
A&A Wrecker and Recovery,
LLC.
2963 Manor Rd.
Austin, TX 78722
PH:512-670-7578
Fax:512-479-7578

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION
FOR PUBLICATION** A
public auction will be held to
satisfy Landlord's lien pursuant
to Chapter 59 of the Texas
Property Code. Sale will be
held at 2:00pm on the 19th day
of January, 2013 at A-A-A Storage
located at 10707 N IH 35,
Austin, TX 78753. All units will
be sold to the highest bidder
for cash. Clean up and removal
deposit will be required. Seller
reserves the right to withdraw
any property from the sale, and
reserves the right to reject any
bid. Sales include items from
the following tenant's storage
spaces:
6303 Jessica Gutierrez: furni-
ture, household items
6513 Anthony Hutton: furniture,
household items
7012 Ruby Jones: tools, garage
items
6603 Vanessa Brackens:
clothes, beds, household items
6714 Robert Oyarzo: shoe, misc.,
boxes
506 Corey Macks: dresser, bed,
misc. boxes
2228 Betty White: luggage, bed-
ding, furniture, misc. boxes
6822 Thomas Neal: household
items
7060 Tammy Carrillo: vacuum,
boxes, household items
7122 Javier Meza: clothes,
furniture
6508 Sharon Favors: household
items

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
2001 Mitsubishi Galant will be
sold at public auction 12/19/12
at 9am. Please call (512) 672-
5000 for more info.

**NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS
HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST
THE ESTATE OF ALBERT JACK
FLETCHER** Notice is hereby
given that original Letters
Testamentary for the Estate
of ALBERT JACK FLETCHER
were issued on the 28th day of
November, 2012, in Cause No.
C-1-PB-12-000819 pending in
the County Court No. One of
Travis County, Texas; to:
MICHAEL WHITE
MICHAEL WHITE's mailing
address is:
Michael White
311 Oak Hill Rd.
Van Alstyne, TX 75495
All persons having claims
against this Estate which is cur-
rently being administered are
required to present them within
the time and in the manner
prescribed by law.
MICHAEL WHITE
By: /s/ Jerry Frank Jones,
Attorney
Jerry Frank Jones, Attorney
Ikard Golden Jones PC
State Bar No. 10913000
400 W. 15th St. Suite 975
Austin, Texas 78701
Phone: (512) 476-2929
Fax: (512) 472-3669

**NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS
HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST
THE ESTATE OF DEMETRIO**

JOSEPH ESPINOSA, SR.
Notice is hereby given that
original Letters of Independent
Administration for the Estate
of Demetrio Joseph Espinosa,
Sr., Deceased, were issued on
November 5, 2012 in Cause No.
C-1-PB-12-000644, pending in
the Probate Court No. 1, Travis
County, Texas, to Cordelia G.
Espinosa.
The residence of such Independ-
ent Administrator is in Travis
County, TX. The address to
which claims should be sent is:
CORDELIA G. ESPINOSA,
INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRA-
TOR
c/o KATHLEEN FORD BAY
RICHARDS RODRIGUEZ &
SKEITH LLP
816 CONGRESS, SUITE 1200
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701
All persons having claims
against this Estate which is cur-
rently being administered are
required to present them within
the time and in the manner
prescribed by law.
DATED the 13th day of Decem-
ber, 2012.
RICHARDS RODRIGUEZ &
SKEITH LLP
816 Congree Avenue, Suite
1200
Austin, TX 78701
Tel. (512) 476-0005
Fax (512) 476-1513
/s/ Kathleen Ford Bay
State Bar No. 01939400
For the Firm
Attorneys for Cordelia G.
Espinosa Independent Ad-
ministrator of the Estate of
Demetrio Joseph Espinosa, Sr.,
Deceased

**NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS
HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST
THE ESTATE OF JANICE M.
SMITH, DECEASED** Notice is
hereby given that in Cause No.
C-1-PB-12-001853, styled Estate
of Janice M. Smith, Deceased,
(the "Estate"), pending in the
Probate Court Number One of
Travis County, Texas, original
letters testamentary were is-
sued on December 13, 2012, to
Stephanie A. Smith.
Claims may be presented and
addressed to the Independent
Executor of the estate in care of
her attorneys at the following
address:
c/o LAW OFFICE OF DAVID
GOODMAN
114 W. 7th Street, Suite 900
Austin, Texas 78701
All persons having claims
against this estate are required
to present them within the time
and in the manner prescribed
by law.
DATED the 13th day of Decem-
ber, 2012.
LAW OFFICE OF DAVID
GOODMAN
114 W. 7th Street, Suite 900
Austin, Texas 78701
Tel. No. (512) 457-5009
Fax No. (512) 322-0168
By: /s/ David Goodman
State Bar Number: 08151850
ATTORNEYS FOR INDEPEN-
DENT EXECUTOR

**NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS
HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST
THE ESTATE OF MILDRED
MARIE SHERROD aka
MILDRED S. SHERROD** Notice
is hereby given that original
Letters Testamentary were is-
sued in the Estate of MILDRED
MARIE SHERROD aka MIL-
DRED S. SHERROD, Deceased,
No. C-1-PB-12-001919, now
pending in the Probate Court
of Travis County, Texas, on the
13th day of December, 2012, to
the following person who was
appointed Independent Execu-
tor of said Estate:
Cletis Lee Sherrod, Jr.
P.O. Box 1071
Dripping Springs, Texas 78620
All persons having claims
against the Estate described
above are hereby directed to
address their claims in care of
the representative's attorney,
THOMAS M. VANDIVIER, at
13062 Hwy. 290 West, Suite 105,
Austin, Texas 78737.
DATED this 13th day of Decem-
ber, 2012.
/s/ Thomas M. Vandivier
Attorney for the Executor
13062 Hwy. 290 West
Suite 105
Austin, Texas 78737
(512) 288-1195 Phone
(512) 615-3544 Fax

**NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS
HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST
THE ESTATE OF JAMES
EVAN THOMPSON** Notice
is hereby given that original
Letters Testamentary for the
Estate of JAMES EVAN

THOMPSON, Deceased, No.
C-1-PB-12-001838, now pending
in the Probate court of Travis
County, Texas, on the 11th day
of December, 2012, to the
following person who was ap-
pointed Independent Executor
of said Estate:
James Evan Thompson, Jr.
32 Longwood
Austin, Texas 78737
All persons having claims
against the Estate described
above are hereby directed to
address their claims in care of
the representative's attorney,
THOMAS M. VANDIVIER, at
13062 Hwy. 290 West, Suite 105,
Austin, Texas 78737.
DATED this 11th day of Decem-
ber, 2012.
/s/ Thomas M. Vandivier
Attorney for the Executor
13062 Hwy. 290 West
Suite 105
Austin, Texas 78737
(512) 288-1195 Phone
(512) 615-3544 Fax

**NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS
HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST
THE ESTATE OF VIVIENNE
MARIE LEPINE** Notice is
hereby given that original
Letters Testamentary for the
Estate of VIVIENNE MARIE
LEPINE, Deceased, No. C-1-
PB-12-001896, now pending
in the Probate court of Travis
County, Texas, on the 11th day
of December, 2012, to the
following person who was ap-
pointed Independent Executor
of said Estate:
Michael James Lepine
2206 Arpdale Street
Austin, Texas 78704
All persons having claims
against the Estate described
above are hereby directed to
address their claims in care of
the representative's attorney,
THOMAS M. VANDIVIER, at
13062 Hwy. 290 West, Suite 105,
Austin, Texas 78737.
DATED this 11th day of Decem-
ber, 2012.
/s/ Thomas M. Vandivier
Attorney for the Executor
13062 Hwy. 290 West
Suite 105
Austin, Texas 78737
(512) 288-1195 Phone
(512) 615-3544 Fax

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that
original Letters of Administra-
tion for the Estate of Clara
F. Buechler, Deceased, were
issued on December 11,
2012 under Docket No. C-1-
PB-12-001514, pending in the
Probate Court No. 1 of Travis
County, Texas, to Susan Burge.
Claims may be presented in
care of the attorney for the
estate, addressed as follows:
Representative,
Estate of Clara F. Buechler,
Deceased
c/o JoAnne McIntosh
Eccles & McIntosh, PC
506 West 16th Street
Austin, Texas 78701
All persons having claims
against this estate, which is
currently being administered,
are required to present them
within the time and in the man-
ner prescribed by law.
DATED December 11, 2012.
Eccles & McIntosh, PC
JoAnne McIntosh
Attorney for INDEPENDENT
ADMINISTRATOR

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that
original Letters of Independent
Administration with Will
Annexed of the Estate of Glen
Robert Nessel Deceased, were
issued on December 10, 2012
in CAUSE NO. 12-0750-CP4,
pending in County Court at Law
number 4, Williamson County,
Texas to Patrick Soffner,
Independent Administrator. All
persons having claims against
said Estate are required to
present them to Rose Cohen,
Attorney at Law, 805 West 10th
Street, Suite 100, Austin, Texas
78701 within the time pre-
scribed by law. Notice is hereby
given that original Letters of
Independent Administration
with Will Annexed of the
Estate of Glen Robert Nessel
Deceased, were issued on
December 10, 2012 in CAUSE
NO. 12-0750-CP4, pending in
County Court at Law number
4, Williamson County, Texas to
Patrick Soffner, Independent
Administrator. All persons hav-
ing claims against said Estate
are required to present them to
Rose Cohen, Attorney at Law,
805 West 10th Street, Suite 100,
Austin, Texas 78701 within the

time prescribed by law.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE is hereby given that
original Letters Testamentary
for the Estate of Albert Francis
Kirby, Deceased, were issued
on December 4, 2012, in Cause
No. C-1-PB-12-001895, pending
in Travis County, Texas, to: Joan
Morrison Kirby.
The notice to the Independent
Executor may be delivered at
the following address:
c/o Glenn M. Karisch
The Karisch Law Firm, PLLC
7200 N. MoPac Expwy, Suite 300
Austin, Texas 78731
All persons having claims
against this Estate which is cur-
rently being administered are
required to present them within
the time and in the manner
prescribed by law.
DATED the 13th day of Decem-
ber, 2012.
/s/ Glenn M. Karisch
Attorney for Independent
Executor

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that
original Letters Testamentary
for the Estate of Christine Clara
Goodwin Fant, Deceased,
were issued on December 4,
2012, under Docket No. C-1-
PB-12-001840 pending in the
Probate Court of Travis County,
Texas to: Richard Goodwin
Fant.
Claims may be presented in
care of the attorney for the
Estate addressed as follows:
Richard Goodwin Fant
Independent Executor, Estate of
Christine Clara Goodwin Fant,
Deceased
c/o Stan M. Putman, Jr.
Judge, Kostura & Putman, PC.
2901 Bee Cave Road Box L
Austin, Texas 78746
All persons having claims
against this Estate which is cur-
rently being administered are
required to present them within
the time and in the manner
prescribed by law.
DATED this 21st day of Decem-
ber, 2012.
JUDGE, KOSTURA & PUT-
MAN, PC.
By Stan M. Putman, Jr., At-
torney for Applicant

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that
original Letters Testamentary
for the Estate of Clarice Sta-
thos, aka Clarice J. Stathos,
Deceased, were issued on
December 13, 2012, in Cause
NO. C-1-PB-12-001929, pending
in the Probate Court No. 1,
Travis County, Texas, to: Donna
Joyce Collins.
All persons having claims
against this Estate which is cur-
rently being administered are
required to present them to the
undersigned within the time
and in the manner prescribed
by law.
c/o: Brad Wiewel
Attorney at Law
1601 Rio Grande St., Ste. 550
Austin, TX 78701
DATED the 13th day of Decem-
ber, 2012.
/s/ Candice Bocock
Attorney for Donna Joyce
Collins

NOTICE TO CREDITORS No-
tice is hereby given that origi-
nal Letters Testamentary for the
Estate of EARL C. COVINGTON,
JR., deceased, were issued on
December 11, 2012, in Docket
No. C-1-PB-12-001916, pending
in the Probate Court No. One
of Travis County, Texas, to:
JACKSON WAYNE GLASS,
Independent Executor.
The residence for the Inde-
pendent Executor is in Travis
County, Texas. The mailing
address is:
c/o: A. Lynn Tiemann
Thompson & Tiemann LLP
Attorney at Law
5203 Pony Chase
Austin, Texas 78727
All persons having claims
against this Estate, which is
currently being administered,
are required to present them
to the undersigned within
the time and in the manner
prescribed by law.
DATED the 21st day of Decem-

ber, 2012.
Respectfully submitted,
THOMPSON & TIEMANN LLP
P.O. Box 201988
Austin, Texas 78720-1988
(512) 335-6800 Telephone
(512) 335-2088 Facsimile
/s/ A. Lynn Tiemann
Attorney and Counselor
State Bar No. 20021500
ATTORNEY FOR THE ESTATE
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that
original Letters Testamen-
tary for the Estate of Geneva
Walther Wendland Homesley,
aka Geneva M. Homesley,
Deceased, were issued on
December 11, 2012, in Cause
No. C-1-PB-12-001898, pending
in the Probate Court No. 1,
Travis County, Texas, to: Diana
Suzette Homesley.
All persons having claims
against this Estate which is cur-
rently being administered are
required to present them to the
undersigned within the time
and in the manner prescribed
by law.
c/o: Brad Wiewel
Attorney at Law
1601 Rio Grande St., Ste. 550
Austin, TX 78701
DATED the 11th day of Decem-
ber, 2012
/s/ Candice Bocock, Attorney

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that
original Letters Testamentary
for the Estate of Harald Alex-
ander Becker, a/k/a Harald
Alexander Ludwig Becker,
Deceased, were issued on
December 5, 2012, under Cause
No. C-1-PB-12-001642, pending
in the Probate Court Number
One of Travis County, Texas, to
Gene Becker.
Claims may be presented in
care of the attorney for the
estate, addressed as follows:
Representative, Estate of
Harald Alexander Becker a/k/a
Harald Alexander Ludwig
Becker, Deceased
c/o Kenneth W. Pajak, Esq.
The Bannerot Law Firm, PC.
2705 Bee Cave Road, Suite 230
Austin, Texas 78746
All persons having claims
against this estate, which is
currently being administered,
are required to present them
to the undersigned within
the time and in the manner
prescribed by law.
DATED the 12th day of Decem-
ber, 2012.

/s/ Kenneth W. Pajak, Esq.
Attorney for Estate
State Bar No. 24007797
2705 Bee Cave Road, Suite 230
Austin, Texas 78746
(512) 327.8930
(888) 857.0410 Facsimile

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that
original Letters Testamentary
for the Estate of Jafus Nathan-
iel Walker, Jr., Deceased, were
issued on December 4, 2012, in
Cause No. C-1-PB-12-001556,
pending in the Probate Court
No. 1, Travis County, Texas, to:
Dorothy Y. Walker.
All persons having claims
against this Estate which is cur-
rently being administered are
required to present them to the
undersigned within the time
and in the manner prescribed
by law.
c/o: Mark D. Swanson
Attorney at Law
940 E. 51st Street, Ste. 101
Austin, Texas 78751
DATED the 14th day of Decem-
ber, 2012.
/s/ Mark D. Swanson
Attorney for Dorothy Y. Walker
State Bar No.: 19555200
940 E. 51st Street, Ste. 101
Austin, Texas 78751
Telephone: (512) 990-9090
Facsimile: (512) 990-1890

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that
original Letters Testamentary
for the Estate of Larry A. Kin-
chion, Deceased, were issued
on November 6, 2012, in Cause
No. C-1-PB-12-001649, pending
in the Probate Court No. 1,
Travis County, Texas, to: Janice
Kinchion.
All persons having claims
against this Estate which is cur-
rently being administered are
required to present them to the
undersigned within the time
and in the manner prescribed
by law.
c/o: Representative, Estate of
Larry A. Kinchion
15004 Stave Oak Lane
Austin, Texas 78724
DATED the 13th day of Decem-

ber, 2012.
/s/ Natalie Niles Arguello
Attorney for Janice Kinchion
State Bar No.: 24037186
919 Congress Ave, Suite 900
Austin, TX 78701
Telephone: (512) 441-1411
Facsimile: (512) 469-2975

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that
original Letters Testamentary
for the Estate of MARTHA E.
KUTSCHER, Deceased, were
issued on November 29, 2012,
in Cause No. C-1-PB-12-001887,
in the Probate Court Number
One of Travis County, Texas,
to KATHRYN JO KOTRLA, as
Independent Executor.
The residence of the Inde-
pendent Executor is in Travis
County, Texas. The post office
address is:
Estate of Martha E. Kutscher
c/o Deborah Green
The Law Offices of Deborah
Green
7200 North MoPac Blvd.,
Suite 300
Austin, Texas 78731
All persons having claims
against this estate which is cur-
rently being administered are
required to present them within
the time and in the manner
prescribed by law.
DATED this 14th day of Decem-
ber, 2012.
By: /s/ Deborah Green
Attorney for Independent
Executor

NOTICE TO CREDITORS No-
tice is hereby given that origi-
nal Letters Testamentary for the
Estate of NICHOLAS MICHAEL
CURRAN, Deceased, were
issued on November 20, 2012,
in Cause No. C-1-PB-12-001832,
pending in the Probate Court
No. 1, Travis County, Texas, to:
Carole-Ann Labbe.
All persons having claims
against this Estate which is cur-
rently being administered are
required to present them to the
undersigned within the time
and in the manner prescribed
by law.
c/o: Representative, Estate of
NICHOLAS MICHAEL CURRAN
221 County Road, Shapleigh,
ME 04076
York, Texas 04076
DATED the 12th day of Decem-

AV0116 POUND SALE

NOTICE OF SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES
IMPOUNDED BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF
POLICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION
683.011 ET SEQ., TEXAS TRANSPORTATION
CODE, REGULATING THE IMPOUNDING
AND SALE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES BY
DELEGATE OR PERSONALLY.

THE PURCHASER SHALL TAKE TITLE TO
THE MOTOR VEHICLE FREE AND CLEAR OF
ALL LIENS AND CLAIMS OF OWNERSHIP
AND IS ENTITLED TO REGISTER THE PUR-
CHASED MOTOR VEHICLE AND RECIEVE A
CERTIFICATE OF TITLE.

I WILL PROCEED TO SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION
TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH
IN THE CITY OF AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY,
TEXAS, THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED MO-
TOR VEHICLES WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN
REDEEMED BY THE OWNERS, THEREOF TO
WIT;

JANUARY 16, 2013 @ 9:30 AM @ SOUTHSIDE WRECKER, 8200 S. CONGRESS, AUSTIN, TX 78745

125055041	1998	CHEV	4DR	980DCJ		TX1G1ND52M1W6241166
125055033					PACE TRAL	
125054488	1994	INFI	4DR	BB8K827		TX JNKAY21D9RM103304
123341057	1992	BMW	4DR	BT2P974		TXWBAGC4310NDC29442
123250975	2000	LINC	4DR	048LLF		TX1LNMH97V0YY792754
125055042	1999	DODG	VN	CW1W665	TX 2B5WB35Z7XK566381	



Suite 100
Austin, Texas 78704
All persons having claims against the Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
DATED the 12th day of December, 2012.
AKINS, NOWLIN & PREWITT
1516 E. Palm Valley Blvd., B-2 P.O. Box 249
Round Rock, Texas 78680
(512) 244-0001
FAX: (512) 244-9733
By: /s/ Rick Akins
State Bar No. 00962200
ATTORNEYS FOR ESTATE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
On December 13, 2012, Ron Shelton was issued Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Maurice Louis Skaggs, Deceased, in Cause No. C-1-PB-12-001938 pending in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas. The address of Ron Shelton, Independent Executor, is c/o D'Ana H. Mikeska, Hoppper Mikeska, PLLC, 400 W. 15th St., Suite 408, Austin, Texas 78701, and all persons having claims against this estate are required to present them to such address in the manner and time required by law.
Ron Shelton, Independent Executor of the Estate of Maurice Louis Skaggs, Deceased
By: D'Ana H. Mikeska, Attorney for the Independent Executor, Ron Shelton

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
On December 13, 2012, Ron Shelton was issued Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Myrtle Irene Skaggs, Deceased, in Cause No. C-1-PB-12-001937 pending in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas. The address of Ron Shelton, Independent Executor, is c/o D'Ana H. Mikeska, Hoppper Mikeska, PLLC, 400 W. 15th St., Suite 408, Austin, Texas 78701, and all persons having claims against this estate are required to present them to such address in the manner and time required by law.
Ron Shelton, Independent Executor of the Estate of Myrtle Irene Skaggs, Deceased
By: D'Ana H. Mikeska, Attorney for the Independent Executor, Ron Shelton

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
On December 13, 2012, Walter Martin Hall qualified as Independent Executor without bond of the Estate of Karen Scruggs Hall, Deceased, in Cause No. C-1-PB-12-001917 pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas. The address of the Independent Executor is 400 W. 15th, Suite 808, Austin, Texas 78701, and all persons having claims against this estate are required to present them to such address in the manner and time required by law.
Walter Martin Hall
Independent Executor of the Estate of Karen Scruggs Hall

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of PATSY R. LAMME, Deceased, were issued to Christopher M. Jistel on December 18, 2012, under Cause No. C-1-PB-12-001936, pending in Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas. All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, must present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows: Christopher M. Jistel, Representative, Estate of Patsy R. Lamme, Deceased, c/o LAW OFFICE OF CHARLES SMAISTRLA, 7200 N Mo Pac Expy Ste 160, Austin, TX 78731-2560.

OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TO BIDDERS TRAVIS

COUNTY, TEXAS
Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be accepted by Travis County for the following items:
1. Rental of Cargo Vans, 1210-003-CW
Opens: January 7, 2013 @ 9:00 a.m.
Bids should be submitted to: Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, 700 Lavaca Street, Suite 800, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767. Specifications can be obtained from or viewed at the Travis County Purchasing Office at no charge or by downloading a copy from our website: www.co.travis.tx.us/purchasing/solicitation.asp. Bidders should use unit pricing or lump sum pricing, if appropriate. Payments may be made by check. The successful bidder shall be required to furnish a Performance Bond in the amount of One Hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount awarded, if applicable.

OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TO PROPOSERS TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
Notice is hereby given that sealed proposals will be accepted by Travis County for the following items:
1. Consultant Services for RFP Development and Contract Transition for Third Party Administrator, RFS 1210-009-CW
Opens: January 7, 2013 @ 10:00 a.m.
Proposals should be submitted to: Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, 700 Lavaca Street, Suite 800, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767. Proposal Documents can be obtained from or viewed at the Travis County Purchasing Office at no charge or by downloading a copy from our website: www.co.travis.tx.us/purchasing/solicitation.asp. Proposers should use unit pricing or lump sum pricing, if appropriate. Payments may be made by check. The successful proponent shall be required to furnish a Performance Bond in the amount of One Hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount awarded, if applicable.

PUBLISHED NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Joe E. Owen, Deceased, were issued on November 27, 2012, in Docket No. C-1-PB-12-001779, pending in the County Court, Travis County, Texas, to Kathryn Moore, Independent Executor. The address of record for Kathryn Moore is 407 Blyth Road, Victoria, TX 77904. All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present their claims within the time and in the manner prescribed by law to: Conyetta Gaus Swaney, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 50, Yoakum, Texas 77995.
DATED the 14th day of December, 2012.
/s/ Kathryn Moore, Independent Executor

STOR SELF STORAGE In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, there being due and unpaid charges for the goods hereinafter described and stored at Stor Self Storage locations listed below; And due notice having been given, to the owner of said property and all parties known to claim an interest therein, and the time specified in such notice for payment of such having disposed of on the following dates. No one under 16 allowed. Cash only!
Stor Self Storage, 2508 W. Pecan St, Pflugerville, TX 78660 512-990-1000
January 7, 2013 10:00 AM
Jyn Nyambo – Luggage, love seat, couch, clothing, 40 boxes, totes, artwork
Sonya Kozlovsky – silk tree, mattress and box spring, totes, leather bed frame, boxes, appliances, tools, file cabinet
Victor Hernandez – tool box, tools, exercise equip, massage mat, projector screen
Patricia Anglin – Chest of drawers, fishing poles, lawn chair, rocks, frames, boxes, bird bath

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

by Rob Brezsný for December 21-27

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): In 2013, I pledge to conspire with you to achieve more mixtures, connections, accords, and unifications than you ever thought possible. I will furthermore be a fount of suggestions about how you can live well in two worlds. I will coach you to create a peace treaty with your evil twin and your nemesis, and I will help you develop a knack for steering clear of other people's bad ideas and sour moods. I can't, of course, guarantee that you will never again experience a broken heart, but I swear I will do everything I can do to heal the broken part of your heart that you've been suffering from.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): When he was 21, the Capricorn writer Jack London set off to prospect for gold in the 1897 Klondike Gold Rush. He had a rough time there. Malnourished, he suffered from scurvy and leg pain. To make matters worse, he didn't find much gold and returned home broke. On the other hand, he met scores of adventure seekers who told him stories of their travels. These tales served as rich raw material for his novel *The Call of the Wild*, published in 1903. It made him famous and is generally regarded as his masterpiece. I'm guessing you will begin a similar trajectory in 2013, Capricorn. Events that may at first seem less than successful will ultimately breed a big breakthrough.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): I can't force you to seek more pleasure in 2013. I won't nag you to play harder and explore the frontiers of feeling really good. However, I will say this: If you don't plan to put yourself into at least partial alignment with the cosmic mandate to have maximum fun, you may not get the best use out of the advice I'll be offering though my horoscopes in the coming year. Please consider the possibility of ramping up your capacity for pure enjoyment.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): The study of ancient Mayan civilization owes a lot to the fact that Americans started buying lots of chewing gum in the late 19th century. Huh? Here's the connection: For a long time, chicle was one of the prime ingredients in Chiclets, Juicy Fruit, Bazooka bubble gum, and many other brands of chewing gum. Chicle is obtained from the sap of sapodilla trees, which grow in abundance in Central America and Mexico. Over the decades, workers harvesting the chicle accidentally found many Mayan ruins covered in overgrown vegetation, then told archaeologists about their discoveries. I foresee a metaphorically comparable sequence happening in your life during 2013. In unexpected ways, you will be put back in touch with and benefit from lost, forgotten, or unexplored parts of the past.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Isaac Newton is regarded as one of the most influential scientists in history. But the time he spent as a member of the English Parliament was undistinguished. The only public comment he ever made while serving there was a request to close the window because he was cold. Basketball star Michael Jordan had a similar schism. In the prime of his outstanding career, he took a year off to try playing baseball, which he did poorly. After analyzing 2013's astrological aspects, Aries, I'm guessing that you should cultivate a firm intention to avoid doing what Newton and Jordan did. Keep playing to your strengths and emphasizing what you love. Don't get sidetracked by peripheral concerns.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): In 2013, I'd like to help you cultivate an even more reliable relationship with your intuitions and hunches than you already have. You may not need much guidance from me, since the astrological omens indicate this will happen quite naturally. There's another kind of inspiration I hope to offer you in the coming months: clues about how to be "bad" in ways that will give your goodness more vigor. And when I say "bad," I'm not referring to nastiness or insensitivity, but rather to wildness and playfulness and experimentation. Here's one further service I want to provide, Taurus: helping you build a greater capacity to receive gifts, blessings, and support.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): In the year 1900, few people believed that human beings would ever fly through the sky in machines. Most scientists thought that such a feat was impossible. For years, the Wright Brothers had a hard time convincing anyone to believe their flights were actually taking place, even though they had photos and witness reports as documentation. Although the leap you'll be capable of in 2013 isn't quite as monumental as the Wright Brothers', it could be pretty important in the history of your own life. You may also have to deal with skepticism akin to what they had to face. Be true to your vision, Gemini!

CANCER (June 21-July 22): In 2013, I predict you will see why it's wise to phase out an influence you have loved to hate for far too long. Unconcoincidentally, you will also have a talent for purging emotional burdens and psychic debris that you've been holding on to since the bad old days. No later than your birthday, if all goes well, you will be free from a subtle curse you've been casting on yourself; you will finally be attending to one of your long-neglected needs; and you will have turned some rather gawky, half-assed wizardry into a smooth and silky magic.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): In 2013, I pledge to help you raise your lovability. It's not that you are unlovable now, of course, but there's always room for improvement, right? And if people become even more attracted to you than they already are, then you're likely to get a lot of collaborative and cooperative work done. You will thrive as you and your allies work on projects that make your corner of the world a better and more interesting place. So what are the first three actions you could take to raise your lovability?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): First question: Have you ever thought to yourself, "I'm afraid I will never achieve my noblest dreams or live according to my highest ideas"? Answer: There's a very good chance that in the coming year you will banish that fear from the sacred temple of your imagination. Second question: Have you ever wondered if maybe you unconsciously undermine the efforts of people who are trying to assist you? Answer: In the coming months you should discover exactly what to do to prevent such a thing from happening. Third question: Do you know the single most important question you should be asking in 2013? Answer: I predict you will figure that out sometime in the next three weeks.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): In 2013, I will be encouraging you to journey into the frontiers and experiment with the unknown. I will seek to inspire you to go in search of teachings you've needed for a long time. Are you ready for this expansion, Libra? Are you feeling a natural urge to explore forbidden zones and discover missing secrets and mess with your outmoded taboos? As you might imagine, doing this work would motivate you to develop a healthier relationship with your fears. To bolster your courage, I suggest you find some new freedom songs to sing.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): In 2013, I will do what I can to ensure that your fiscal biorhythms are in close alignment with the universal cash flow. You should have pretty good instincts about this worthy project yourself, Scorpio. And so there's an excellent chance that your wealth will increase. The upgrade will be especially dramatic if you are constantly scheming about how you can share your riches and benefit other people with your generosity. I think there will also be an interesting fringe benefit if you maintain maximum integrity as you enhance your access to valuable resources: You will develop a more useful relationship with your obsessive tendencies.

Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Brezsný's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 877/873-4888 or 900/950-7700.



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Austin Harmonica Teacher Michael Rubin
michaelrubinharmonica.com
619-0761

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• 7pm Italian for Intermediate
• 8pm Italian for Advanced
Every Saturday & Sunday
Private Lessons Available
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512-345-8941
elsa@atasteofitalyinaustin.com

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WRITING WORKSHOP

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Every 1st Wed @ BookPeople 11:30am-12:30pm, Every 2nd Wed @ OPA Coffee & Bar 6pm-8pm
Call Inspiration FX for more information or book on Eventbrite.com

512-201-9865

SERVICES Here's today's "TO DO" list: Hire movers. Install toilet. Hire designer to set up website. File taxes. Learn Spanish. Where to start? *The Austin Chronicle's* Service section.

COMPUTERS

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